

German carmakers
Dominant position
under threat

Hanson
New strategy for
North America

Tokyo stock market
Why foreign brokers
are still in the money

Survey
An A-Z of
Computing

FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday June 23 1992

EUROPE'S BUSINESS NEWSPAPER

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De Klerk flies in as ANC calls crisis meeting

South African president F.W. de Klerk announced yesterday he would cut short a visit to Spain and return in time to chair a cabinet meeting tomorrow which will address the country's political turmoil.

Mr de Klerk's move follows a decision by the African National Congress, which on Sunday cut off bilateral talks with the government, to convene an emergency national executive committee meeting today. Page 18 and Lex; Editorial Comment, Page 16; World stocks, Page 40

Maastricht voters: France will take a decisive stride towards ratifying the Maastricht treaty on European union today, when it completes the requisite revision of the French constitution in National Assembly and Senate votes. Page 18; UK Labour party faces internal splits on Maastricht, Page 8

Italian banks raise rates: Several Italian commercial banks raised their prime rate from 13.5 to 14 per cent in reaction to a series of increases in short-term money rates by the Bank of Italy last week. Page 18; Government bonds, Page 24; World stocks, Page 40

Uruguay Round: A political initiative by European leaders will be needed at the Lisbon summit this week if the Uruguay Round of world trade talks is to avoid collapse, negotiators in Brussels and Geneva said. Page 3

Bull boss rejected: The French government has refused an attempt by Bull chairman Francis Lorentz to gain a second term as head of the loss-making state-owned computer maker. Page 19

Julie Ward assessment: Two Kenyan game rangers accused of murdering British tourist Julie Ward were not guilty and three other suspects should have been charged with her killing, according to three assessors in Nairobi High Court. Their findings are not binding on the judge, who will deliver a verdict on Monday.

Chemical weapons ban: An international treaty outlawing chemical weapons is virtually certain to be completed this summer, after negotiations lasting more than 30 years. Page 4

New Spanish foreign minister: Javier Solana, 49, minister for education and science since 1988, is to replace Francisco Fernández Ordóñez as Spain's foreign minister. Page 2

Four in court over infected blood: Four public health officials went on trial in Paris charged with allowing the distribution of HIV-infected blood. About 1,300 haemophiliacs were infected, including 256 who died. Page 2

Likud trails in Israeli opinion poll: The opposition Labour party is comfortably ahead of the ruling Likud, according to a final opinion poll for today's Israeli general election. Soldiers on active duty started voting yesterday. Page 4

Chipmaking link-ups: IBM, US computer maker, and Toshiba, Japanese electronics group, plan to join forces in developing a new generation of microchips - flash memory devices, a type of chip which could eventually replace hard disc memories in computers. Page 3

Murdoch has limits: Fox Television president Stephen Chao has quit the Los Angeles based network, reportedly sacked by owner Rupert Murdoch for hiring a male model to strip at a company management conference. "Sometimes the hardest job a captain has is to terminate his best lieutenant," Murdoch is reported as saying. "But one thing this company has to stand for is that there are limits." Observer, Page 17

Total offers: The French government has set a price of FF230 (\$43.23) per share on the 12.4 per cent stake in oil company Total that it is selling to the public.

Nestlé, Swiss food manufacturer, said it intended to pay HK\$1.5bn (\$194m) for 51 per cent of the manufacturing assets in Hong Kong and southern China of Dairy Farm International, Hong Kong-based food retailer. Page 19

Time Warner said Batman Returns, sequel to the 1989 film, set a Hollywood record in its first weekend with gross box office receipts of \$44.6m.

Soccer: Denmark defeated the Netherlands 7-5 after a penalty shoot-out to qualify to play Germany in the final of the European championships.

| STOCK MARKET INDICES | | STERLING | |
|------------------------|--------------------|-------------|------------------|
| FTSE 100 | 2,550.3 (-0.45) | New York | 1,882.26 (1.855) |
| Yield | 4.80 | London | 1,881.15 (1.855) |
| FTSE Eurotrack 100 | 1,148.77 (-1.49) | DM | 2,515 (2.32) |
| FT-A All-Share | 1,232.87 (-1.26) | FF | 9,815 (3.825) |
| FT-A World Index | N/A | FF | 9,815 (3.825) |
| Nikkei | 15,911.22 (-58.65) | Y | 236.5 (236.0) |
| New York | | £ index | 93.8 (same) |
| Dow Jones Ind. Ave. | 3,280.8 (-1.55) | | |
| S&P Composite | 403.4 (-0.27) | | |
| US CLOSING RATES | | DOLLAR | |
| Federal Funds | 3.12% (3.12%) | New York | 1,586 (1.57425) |
| 3-mo Treas. Bils. Yld. | 3.719% (3.719%) | DM | 5,2725 (5.2885) |
| Long Bond | 10.11% (10.11%) | FF | 1,4193 (1.42) |
| Yield | 10.89% (10.89%) | FF | 1,4193 (1.42) |
| LONDON MONEY | | DOLLAR | |
| 3-mo Interbank | 10.1% (same) | London | 1,586 (1.57) |
| Libor 3m 6m 9m 12m | 9.75% (9.75%) | DM | 5,2725 (5.2885) |
| NORTH SEA OIL (Argus) | | FF | 1,419 (1.416) |
| Brut 15-day (Aug) | \$28.875 (21.05) | Y | 127.05 (126.05) |
| Gold | | S index | 92.2 (same) |
| New York Comex (June) | \$343.7 (242.4) | | |
| London | \$342.89 (242.55) | Tokyo close | Y 127.47 |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------|---------|------------|--------|--------------|---------|-------------|---------|
| Austria | Sch30 | Hungary | Fl100 | Malta | Lm100 | S.Arabia | SPr500 |
| Bahrain | Dh1,000 | India | Rs100 | Morocco | Mdh11 | Singapore | S\$4.10 |
| Belgium | Bfr100 | Indonesia | Rp1000 | Nepal | Np100 | Sweden | SKr14 |
| Cyprus | Cy100 | Israel | Sh100 | Norway | Nkr100 | Switzerland | Sfr100 |
| Czech | Cz100 | Japan | Yen100 | Oman | Om100 | Thailand | Thb100 |
| Denmark | Dkr100 | Lebanon | Ll100 | Philippines | Phps100 | Turkey | Lm100 |
| Egypt | Eg100 | Kuwait | Kd100 | Poland | Plz100 | UAE | Dh100 |
| Finland | Fmk100 | Luxembourg | Lfr100 | Portugal | Pt100 | | |
| France | Ffr100 | Qatar | Qr100 | Saudi Arabia | Sr100 | | |
| Germany | Dm100 | Ukraine | Ukr100 | Taiwan | Twd100 | | |
| Greece | Dr100 | | | Turkmenistan | Tmd100 | | |

Third attempt to liberalise industry should lead to big cuts in fares EC to lift curbs on airlines

By David Gardner
in Luxembourg and
David Owen in London

AIRLINES WILL come under growing pressure to cut air fares within Europe after transport ministers last night agreed on a radical "open skies" programme which removes government restrictions on air travel within the Community.

Under the agreement, airlines will be allowed to set air fares at whatever level they want from next year, injecting greater competition into the market as all EC airlines gain access to routes dominated by national flag carriers.

Earlier, more modest packages, introduced in 1987 and 1990, failed to cut air fares. The European Commission hopes this "Third Aviation Package" will succeed where the others failed.

EC Transport Commissioner Karel Van Miert predicted last night "this package should now lead to lower air fares."

Final agreement was delayed until last-minute differences over the pace of improving market access were sorted out. France and the southern EC member states wanted a longer transition period while the air transport liberals - the UK, Netherlands, Ireland and Denmark - wanted a

faster move to a free market. The freedom to set air tariffs will be limited by safeguards against "predatory pricing", by which large carriers take temporary losses through unrealistic price cuts designed to force out smaller competitors.

Market access will include, from next year, the right of EC-registered airlines to so-called "seventh freedom" and what are known as "consecutive cabotage" flights within the Community.

Seventh freedom rights will, for example, allow British Airways, to compete on a route between two countries which begins in, say, Paris and ends in

Berlin. At present they are obliged to start or end at a British airport.

"Consecutive cabotage" means BA could offer services within one country, for instance between Paris and Marseilles or Berlin and Frankfurt, provided the flight originated in the UK.

Ministers agreed on a transition period of four years and three months for untrammelled cabotage - the right to ply any other member state's internal routes without conditions.

A final element in the third package sets common air licensing rules - governing technical fitness and capital adequacy -

intended to facilitate new airlines entering the industry. Current national licensing systems tend to reinforce national monopolies.

The Commission's highly contested proposals to loosen flag carriers' hold on landing and take-off slots at hub airports are being kept out of the package for later negotiation. Brussels wants all vacant or unused slots to be pooled, with at least half being made available to independent, low-cost carriers. The Commission is also keeping separate its suggestion that Brussels should negotiate access into the EC for foreign carriers.

Japanese stock market plunges

By Stefan Wagstyl and
Emiko Terazono in Tokyo

JAPANESE shares plunged yesterday as investors lost faith in the government's willingness to act quickly to stimulate the country's flagging economy.

The Nikkei average of leading stocks fell 598.65 to 15,921.22, the first time it has finished below 16,000 since October 1986.

With the bear market plunging new depths, stockbrokers yesterday were unable to forecast how much further stocks might fall. Mr Jason James, an analyst at James Capel, the UK-based securities company, said: "There are chances that the 15,000 level for the Nikkei will hold. But, on the other hand, there really isn't a reason why it should."

Mr Tatsuhiro Kusuzawa, a senior managing director at Yamaichi Securities, one of the leading Japanese brokers, said: "The private sector cannot do anything. Everything now depends on what kind of fiscal and monetary boost the authorities can implement."

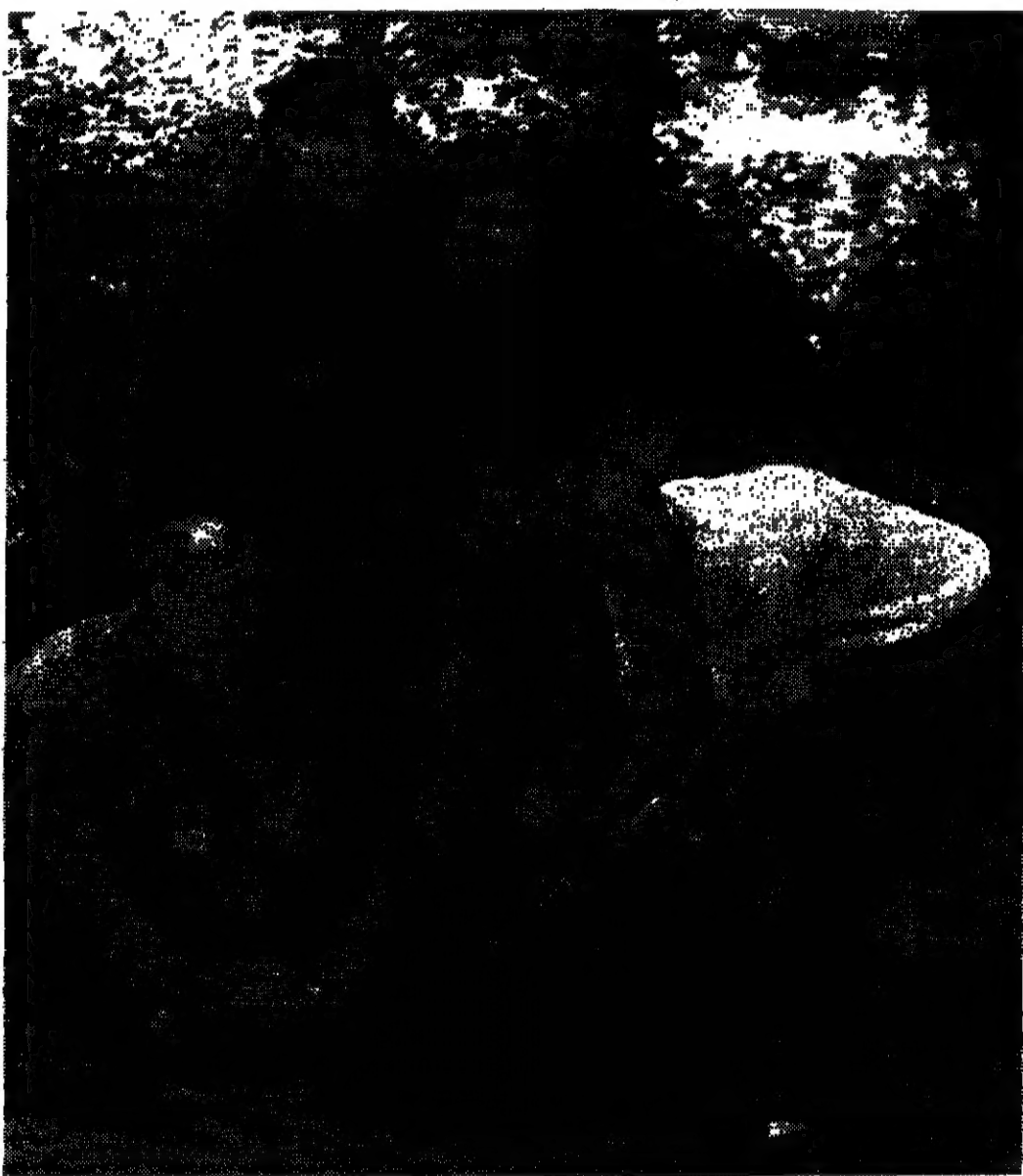
The government gave no clear indication of its plans, undermining the impression given last Friday that ruling Liberal Democratic party officials were forcing the cautious Ministry of Finance into advancing plans for increased government spending.

Mr Kikuchi Miyazawa, the prime minister, said at a press conference marking the end of a session of the Diet that the economy was now the Japanese people's main concern. However, he made no specific commitments to take action to stimulate the economy.

Mr Tsutomu Hata, the finance minister, ruled out action to resuscitate the stock market through immediate measures, such as increases in public works spending.

However, behind the scenes LDP officials are lobbying with increasing intensity for an extra spending package of up to ¥5,000bn (\$38.4bn) to ¥5,000bn.

The stock market's fall below 16,000 has cut into the value of securities holdings of big financial institutions, including banks.



BMW to build US car plant in South Carolina

By Andrew Fisher in Frankfurt

BMW is poised to become the first German luxury carmaker to build a full-scale production plant in another country, with plans for a new site in the US state of South Carolina to be announced by the company today.

It will also be the only German car producer with a US plant, since Volkswagen closed its loss-making facility in Pennsylvania four years ago. Like other German companies, BMW has suffered in recent years from falling US sales because of the recession and the weakness of the dollar.

But BMW's US business has picked up sharply in 1992 as the economy there has begun to revive and it has introduced new models. In the first five months, BMW's sales in the US rose by 24 per cent to nearly 25,000 cars.

BMW said Mr Eberhard von Kuenheim, the chief executive, would announce the new plant at a press conference in Munich, though it gave no details. However, BMW's US subsidiary said it was holding a press conference in the Greenville/Spartanburg area of South Carolina where the new plant is expected to be built.

The company confirmed in April that it had looked at sites in the US. The US plant will probably cost around DM1bn (\$637m), with output likely to start around 1996. South Carolina is believed to have assembled a package of incentives worth at least \$5m. This would include the purchase

of the land to be leased to BMW for its greenfield site and road improvements.

BMW, which expects a further profit rise this year after the 12.5 per cent increase in 1991 earnings to DM783m, is not the only German company to consider a plant in the US, although its plans are the most advanced. Audi, the up-market subsidiary of VW, has considered sites in the US, Canada and Mexico. VW now serves the US mainly from its modernised low-cost Mexican plant.

As well as recession in the US and the slide in the dollar's value since the mid-1980s, German car manufacturers have had to contend with a new luxury tax on products above \$30,000. Also, there has been a rising number of Japanese models made in US "transplant" sites. The Japanese are now competing in the luxury segment served by BMW, Mercedes-Benz and Audi, as well as in the volume car market.

Mr Ferdinand Piech, the head of Audi who takes over as the VW group's chief executive next year, has said Audi has brought its US prices "near to the pain threshold" to compete with the Japanese there.

Although BMW has no full production plant outside Germany, it builds engines in Austria and sends parts for small-scale assembly in south-east Asia and South America. Like Mercedes, it has a plant in South Africa.

Lean and mean, Page 16

Iceland eyes power link with Europe

By Haig Simonian in Milan

THE DEEP and murky waters north of Scotland could be set for a new buzz if a feasibility study to transmit electricity underwater from Iceland to the UK turns into reality.

The National Power Company of Iceland has commissioned Pirelli Cables, the UK subsidiary of the Italian cables and tyres group, to look into the possibility of laying an undersea power link to Britain. The 1,000 kilometre cable would be almost five times longer than any existing underwater power link.

Lying at depths of up to 1,000 metres, it would pose a new technological challenge to the cable-laying industry, including working in some of the world's coldest and most dangerous waters.

Moreover, transmitting electricity over such a distance would also involve huge energy losses, making the scheme potentially uneconomic. "That is one of the things we will have to study", Pirelli said yesterday.

The scheme may have been given a boost by the end of the Cold war. The waters north of Scotland are plied by the submarine fleets of Nato and the former

Soviet Union. The seabed in the region is believed to contain many sophisticated listening devices, which could be disturbed by the proximity of heavy electric transmissions.

Iceland has immense capacity to generate power through hydro-electricity. However, its potential has so far been largely untapped as a result of its small population and limited industrialisation.

Current consumption of electricity from hydroelectric sources is just 600 kilowatt hours a year, against an estimated capacity five times as high.

The UK, which already imports some electricity from France through cables beneath the Channel, is expected to have a surplus by next century as more generating capacity is developed.

But the UK could represent just the beach-head for a series of further cables taking Icelandic electricity to continental Europe.

With growing concern about nuclear power and the environmental damage of many coal-burning power stations, hydro-electric energy generated from Iceland's prodigious mountains and streams could find a ready market in an increasingly "green" Europe.

Eight die as mortars rain on Sarajevo

By Laura Silber in Belgrade

SERB MILITIA forces showered mortar bombs on central Sarajevo yesterday, killing eight people, including three children, and wounding at least 100, many critically.

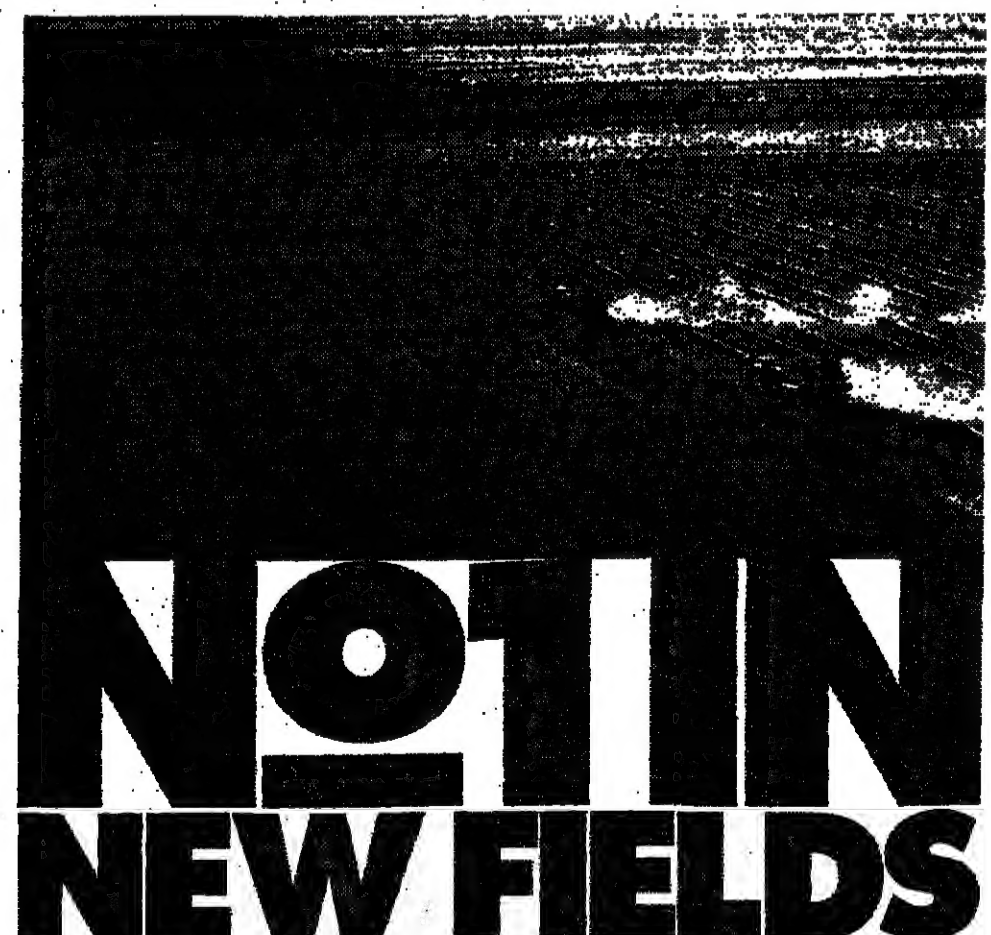
According to Sarajevo Radio, three mortar bombs exploded in front of the National Bank in the city centre, where people were queuing to collect their pay. The streets were unusually crowded as people came out of shelters for the first time in days during a lull in the fighting.

Bodies were laid out in hospital corridors and trails of blood smeared ramps leading into emergency wards at three hospitals, witnesses said. Reporters on the scene said the death toll could rise because many victims were in a critical condition.

Serb forces launched a similar attack on a bread queue last month, killing 16 people and maiming dozens more. Serb leaders from Bosnia yesterday again denied responsibility for the attack.

Mr Mirsad Becirovic, an editor

Continued on Page 18



Question: which US stock market is the most fertile environment for growth companies?

Answer: Nasdaq.

In 1991 alone, The Nasdaq Stock Market attracted 26 of the 27 new listings by biotech companies - following a path beaten by billion-dollar-plus corporations including Apple Computer, Microsoft Corporation and Novell Inc.

For more detail on the market whose efficiency, liquidity and ease of access have made it the third-largest in the world in just 21

years, contact Nasdaq International, 43 London Wall, London EC2M 5TB. Tel: 071-374 6969.

NASDAQ
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THE STOCK MARKET FOR THE NEXT 100 YEARS

NEWS: EUROPE

Russia caught in republics' conflict

By John Lloyd in Moscow and Dmitri Volkov in Vladikavkaz, North Ossetia

RUSSIA was yesterday dragged further into conflict with other former Soviet republics, as the violence round the edges of what had been a monolithic Soviet Union deepened and intensified.

Mr Mircea Snegur, the Moldovan president, said his parliament must "declare war" on Russia, which he accused of directing the 14th Russian Army, based in the Trans-Dniestr breakaway "republic" within Moldova, against Moldovan forces.

Reports yesterday from the Trans-Dniestr city of Bendery, which twice changed hands between Moldovan and Trans-Dniestr forces over the weekend, said Trans-Dniestr guards still commanded the centre of the town.

However, the Interfax news agency reported last night that tanks and armoured vehicles were being moved up to Bendery from Moldovan bases, and that MIG-29 fighter aircraft which had been handed over to the Moldovans when the Soviet military pulled out were being readied for bombing raids on the breakaway region.

Meanwhile, leaders of the South Ossetian region being besieged by the military forces of Georgia, of which it is a part, said their only salvation was in union with Russia.

Russia's parliamentarians view such a request sympathetically, but it would put Georgia in direct conflict with Russia.

The South Ossetian leaders, talking to journalists in Vladikavkaz, the Caucasus city which is the capital of North Ossetia - an autonomous republic within Russia - said all possibility of a compromise with Georgia was over.

Mr Alan Chachiyev, deputy speaker of the South Ossetian parliament, said: "The only chance we see is to join with North Ossetia in the Russian Federation."

Mr Aleksandr Galasov, the South Ossetian parliament's leader, said that if Russia did not defend his people, volunteers would be gathered in North Ossetia and sent down to fight the Georgians - "and who knows where that will end?"

At stake in these conflicts is the future allegiance of Russian, or pro-Russian, minorities in regions under attack by forces of the countries in which they live.

If Russia takes up arms in their defence - as both Mr Snegur and Mr Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, have accused it of doing already - it opens the door for a host of other such actions, from the Baltics to Central Asia.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin yesterday confirmed General Alexander Rutskoi, the vice-president, as the man in charge of these conflict areas, an apparent sign of presidential approval of Gen Rutskoi's uncompromising defence of the Trans-Dniestr and South Ossetians at the weekend, and of his promise to assist them with Russian arms.

However, Gen Rutskoi's statements were roundly condemned by Mr Shevardnadze and Mr Snegur yesterday as a "declaration of war".

Spain names new foreign minister

MR Javier Solana was named as Spain's new foreign minister yesterday, taking over from Mr Francisco Fernández Ordóñez, who stepped down because of ill-health. Reuter reports from Madrid.

Mr Solana, 49, a former physics professor who is considered a close associate of the prime minister, Mr Felipe González, had been education and science minister since 1988.

He takes over foreign affairs only days before a European Community summit in Lisbon, amid uncertainty over plans for EC political and economic union in the wake of Denmark's rejection of the Maastricht treaty.

Spain is spearheading a drive by poorer EC nations for a large slice of EC funds to help bring their economies into line with those of their richer northern neighbours.

Mr Fernández Ordóñez, who was foreign minister for seven years, cancelled all engagements at the beginning of this month and is receiving medical treatment at home.



A barricade erected by protesting French farmers yesterday in the northern town of Arras

Paris blockade threatened

A SPLITTER group of protesting French farmers, Coordination Rurale (CR), yesterday pledged to go ahead with its blockade of Paris from the early hours of this morning, despite government warnings, writes William Dawkins in Paris.

The group, formed late last year in protest against the growing moderation of the main farmers' unions, plans to set up around 20 tractor road blocks at strategic points

between 30km and 50km from the centre of the capital. They are angry at last month's European Community agreement to reform agriculture policy by cutting prices and compensating farmers with direct aid.

Mr Jacques Laigneau, the CR's president, said the roadblocks would stay until the farm reforms were withdrawn or until the organisation judged it opportune.

The signs are that the disruption will be limited, since

the CR is in no mood to confront the police after a warning by Mr Paul Quilès, the interior minister, that the demonstration will not be permitted to impede traffic. Mr Raymond Girard, a CR leader, said yesterday that the organisation had ordered demonstrators to avoid violence.

The main farming union, the FNSEA, is also unhappy with EC reforms, but accepts that they cannot be abandoned and so prefers to negotiate.

Versailles relives old days

By Ian Davidson in Paris

TODAY'S joint sitting of the two French houses of parliament for the Maastricht vote, in the parliamentary chamber of the palace of Versailles, is a rare event under the Fifth Republic which is now only staged for the purpose of amending the constitution.

Since the Republic was founded in 1958, there have been only three previous parliamentary sessions in Versailles; but all of these so-called technical reforms of the constitution, minor affairs compared with today's heavily loaded session.

In 1963 the congress adjusted the dates of the annual sittings of parliament; in 1974 it allowed parliamentarians to appeal to the constitutional council; in 1976 it adjusted the

rules for a presidential election, to cover the death of a candidate during the campaign.

A much more important reform, to reduce the presidential term from seven to five years, was launched by President Pompidou in 1973.

But after it had passed the national assembly and the senate, he allowed it to lapse, because he did not think he could secure the necessary three-fifths majority in the congress.

By contrast, the most important constitutional reform of the Fifth Republic, the direct election to the presidency, was introduced by General de Gaulle in 1962, through a popular referendum.

In the late 19th century, however, the Palace of Versailles was for a brief period the regular seat of the French parliament.

After the defeat of France in the Franco-Prussian War of 1871, and the outbreak of the Paris Commune, the French government and parliament retreated to Versailles.

At first the parliament met in the Versailles opera house, but in 1875 they built a new assembly chamber in the Southern or Princes' wing of the palace.

After that the parliament met regularly there from 1875 until 1879, when it moved back to the Palais Bourbon in the centre of Paris.

But the Versailles chamber remained in use during the Third Republic for the parliamentary election of the president, and it continued to do so in the Fourth Republic after the Second World War for the election of Presidents Vincent Auriol (1947) and René Coty (1954).

Moscow signals retreat on credits

By John Lloyd

MR Yegor Gaidar, the Russian prime minister, yesterday appeared to signal a further retreat by the government in the face of industrial pressure for credits to alleviate its vast debt problem.

Mr Gaidar, whose new title has not yet been confirmed by the parliament, was quoted by Reuters news agency as saying that Rb500bn would be granted over six months to help enterprises cope with a Rb200bn debt.

This would appear to increase by Rb300bn the Rb500bn aid promised just before the Congress of People's Deputies in April, but not yet disbursed. There are no details on the interest rates at which the credits would be offered, nor to whom.

Mr Gaidar was quoted as saying that "there is reason to believe that they (the credits) will not provoke hyperinflation or seriously worsen the financial situation".

However, the move fitted the recent drift of the government

away from radical reform to a much closer accommodation with the industrial lobby, on which it now relies for its support. The industrial lobby, in turn, is naming as its price more credits and controlled energy prices.

The move also comes as the International Monetary Fund team completes talks with government ministers and officials, with no sign of an accord on the government programme which would release the funds of \$24bn. Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, the Japanese prime minister, said yesterday in Tokyo that if Russia insisted on looser conditions and quicker provision of aid, "neither we nor the IMF shall be able to prepare a full-fledged aid agreement".

Figures on the economy, released yesterday by the Interfax news agency, showed that Russian industrial output was down 13.2 per cent in the first five months of 1992 compared with the same period in 1991. Oil extraction, the most critical indicator, was 189m tonnes from January to May, 13 per cent down on 1991.

Optimism on German growth

By Quentin Peel in Bonn

THE Bundesbank and the Economics Ministry yesterday issued cautiously optimistic forecasts for growth in the second half of the year, in spite of the uncertain outlook for exports in the world market.

Mr Helmut Schlesinger, president of the Bundesbank, forecast overall growth of gross national product, for the united Germany, of between 2.0 and 2.5 per cent - up from earlier forecasts of just 2.0 per cent growth.

"I do not see any sign of slipping back into recession," he said in a speech to the German-Greek chamber of com-

merce in Athens. But he expressed continuing concern over the rate of inflation, still "well over 4 per cent", and insisted that the time had not come for "an all-clear signal on the monetary policy front".

In Bonn, Mr Jürgen Möllemann, the economics minister, also predicted a "gradual improvement" in growth prospects for the west German economy in the rest of the year. "The German economy is proving itself robust, in spite of the unstable international environment," Mr Möllemann said in a commentary on the monthly report of his ministry.

Growth of GNP in western Germany in the first quarter reached a real 3.1 per cent compared with the same quarter of 1991, while gross domestic product - excluding the earnings of workers commuting from eastern Germany - was up by just 1.8 per cent.

The figures, or rather lack of figures, for the eastern German economy give a much less clear picture. Mr Möllemann admitted that there were big differences from sector to sector and region to region.

The only areas of clear growth in east Germany are the construction industry and some service sectors, while "in manufacturing industry the structural adjustment process is still in full swing," he said.

Brussels rules in baby nappies row

THE European Commission has stopped Final of Italy and Procter & Gamble of the US from taking a dominant position in the lucrative EC market in baby nappies, writes Andrew Hill in Brussels.

The two companies will be allowed to create joint ventures in Portugal, Italy and Spain to exploit the market in sanitary protection products.

But at the insistence of the Commission, Final has said it will withdraw its baby nappy activities from the deal and sell them. The bargain struck between Brussels and the two companies should finally end the Commission's long-running investigation, which began in November 1990.

Brussels cleared the deal last October on condition that

minor changes were made. That decision dismayed the two companies' EC competitors and consumer groups which complained to the Commission that the joint ventures would still give Procter & Gamble and Final more than 50 per cent of the growing EC baby nappies market. Two months ago, the Commission announced it had changed its mind.

State plans to take over Serb economy

By Judy Dempsey in Belgrade

THE Serbian government will introduce measures aimed at bringing most sectors of the economy directly under state control if the United Nations-imposed sanctions last longer than a month, factory managers said yesterday.

The measures are part of a package designed to forestall any workers' unrest, particularly in the textile industry, the most successful export sector, which accounts for 12 per cent of Serbia's total GDP. They were drawn up by Mr

Radoman Bosovic, Serbia's prime minister, in the light of the growing concern among the textile industry that the sanctions imposed on Serbia and Montenegro three weeks ago will have a catastrophic effect on this sector of the economy.

"The sector employs 200,000 people, or about a quarter of the total labour force," explained Mr Gradimir Cvetkovic, secretary of Serbia's textile association.

"It is also the most successful arm of the Serbian economy. Between 60 and 80 per

cent of the industry's total turnover is earmarked for the export market. The sector accounts for 20 per cent of Serbia's total trade."

About 60 per cent of the textile industry's turnover is exported to the European Community, the rest to the US, eastern Europe, and the former Soviet Union. Last year, textile exports totalled \$1.1bn (£595m), and imports \$600m.

The sector accounts for 1 per cent of the world textile market, and holds a 3.5 per cent share of the EC's market.

"We are totally dependent on

the export market, and totally dependent on imports, ranging from dyes and chemicals, to material and tanning processes," said Mr Dragoslav Kojic, manager of Kruz, one of Serbia's most successful textile enterprises which exports 100 per cent of its turnover.

He said the sanctions were "a disaster" for his business.

"I want to send the finished goods to my partners in Germany. But how can I get around the sanctions? Sooner or later we will lose these markets in Europe. They will be snapped up by Czechoslovakia,

Hungary, or the Ukraine. It will be very difficult to regain them," he explained.

Mr Kojic employs 6,000 people, and has an annual turnover of DM100m (£34.2m) a year. Later this month, he will put his work force on paid leave for a few weeks.

"After that, I run out of money, energy, and raw materials, which we import from our partners," he said. "I do not know what to tell my workers. The government kept saying we would cope under the sanctions. This is nonsense. They haven't a clue."

French HIV blood trial opens

By William Dawkins in Paris

FOUR senior French public health officials went on trial yesterday facing charges of allowing the distribution of blood infected with HIV, as a result of which 256 haemophiliacs have died of Aids during the past seven years.

The trial, expected to produce a judgment in October, was triggered by complaints from haemophiliacs and bereaved parents. It could embarrass the government, since the alleged offences took place in 1985, under the first Socialist administration.

Around 1,300 haemophiliacs,

including those who died from the mistake, were infected, nearly 45 per cent of all haemophiliacs in France. Mrs Georgina Dufou, social affairs minister at the time - who has not been charged - has admitted to being "deeply responsible but not guilty".

This is the biggest recorded disaster in French medical history and has sparked off a complete reorganisation of blood distribution in France.

So far, the government and insurance companies have paid FF200m (£20.3m) in compensation to victims, but this is only a small fraction of the total expected bill. The alleg-

edly contaminated blood was distributed by the CNTS national blood transfusion centre, which has a monopoly on blood supplies.

According to the prosecution, the four men allowed the blood to be distributed, knowing that it was infected and that it could have been made safe by a heat process already in use in the US, Britain and Germany. A government report published last year suggests they were awaiting the development of a rival French process. Two of the defendants, Dr Michel Garretta, former director of the transfusion centre, and Dr Jean-Pierre

Allain, head of research and development there, are charged with deception over the quality of the blood they sold, for which they could be jailed for up to four years.

The others, Prof Jacques Roux, the government's former director general for health, and Dr Robert Netter, former director of the national health laboratory, are accused of failing to help people in danger, which carries a sentence of up to five years. Mr Garretta has argued on television that he and his colleagues are being made scapegoats and that the government should widen the investigation.

Ex-minister Edouard Balladur expresses caution

Minimalist view of Euro-union

By David Marsh and Ian Davidson

MR Edouard Balladur, the former French finance minister, leans against the mantlepiece in his Parisian office and ponders the Maastricht Treaty on European union.

More than a seignior of scepticism hangs on the lips of the man who, if the right wins next spring's legislative elections, is tipped by many to become France's next prime minister.

A technocratic stalwart of France's Gaullist RPR opposition party, Mr Balladur has argued for the treaty's adoption, but he takes a disinterestedly minimalist view of its impact.

"I don't think that things will happen in the way described by the treaty. But we will apply the treaty - we will respect our promises."

Even if the treaty surmounts its ratification hurdles, and the EC succeeds in patching up the problems caused by the Danish rejection, Mr Balladur says that a European monetary union - planned to take place by 1999 at the latest - is by no means certain.

Whatever the language of the treaty, which talks of an "irreversible" commitment to a single currency run by a European central bank, Mr Balladur emphasises that national parliaments will still have the final say.

"It is said that the process is irreversible. But the countries will have to decide by unanimous voting on the rates of exchange for their currencies against the single currency which will replace them."

"If this can only be decided unanimously, then the process cannot be irreversible," he said.

During his period as finance minister between 1986 and 1988, Mr Balladur pressed the

cause of a joint European central bank. As officials at the Bundesbank have long realised - and Mr Balladur himself now admits - this was all part of a long-running French policy aimed at curbing the power of the German central bank. Maastricht brought the French dream of Emu - European monetary union - within reach.

But Mr Balladur says the monetary union aspects of the treaty would reduce the importance of the Bundesbank far less than many Maastricht advocates hope.

"It is said that this is a method of constraining the Bundesbank."

"I have looked at the treaty. Decisions by the European central bank will be taken by majority voting on the bank's council (on which all national central banks will have seats)."

"I don't believe that the others will vote against the Bundesbank and put it into a minority position."

Partly reflecting improved

bilateral links between French and German ministers and central banks, which Mr Balladur helped establish in 1987-88, Franco-German monetary co-operation has been intensified during the last five years. The experience has not, however, made Mr Balladur more responsive to German views. He complains vigorously about the German government's refusal to accept the name "Euro" (European Currency Unit) for the planned single European currency.

"I think that the discussion (in Germany) is infantile. I don't see why one should change the name under a German pretext."

"It's a French word corresponding to an English acronym. I don't want to put the name into question," he said.

Mr Balladur reacts acerbically to German insistence that the European central bank should be located in Frankfurt to compensate the Germans for the loss of the D-Mark. "I don't want the European central

bank to be in Frankfurt. If we look at the question like this, then why shouldn't it be in France?"

Additionally, Mr Balladur complains that the cost of German reunification is helping to push up interest rates throughout the whole of Europe. "If the Germans had reduced their budgetary spending or raised their taxes rather than increasing their indebtedness, German interest rates would be lower than they are today. They made a political choice in order to disturb German public opinion as little as possible."

Mr Balladur also does not criticise towards other EC countries.

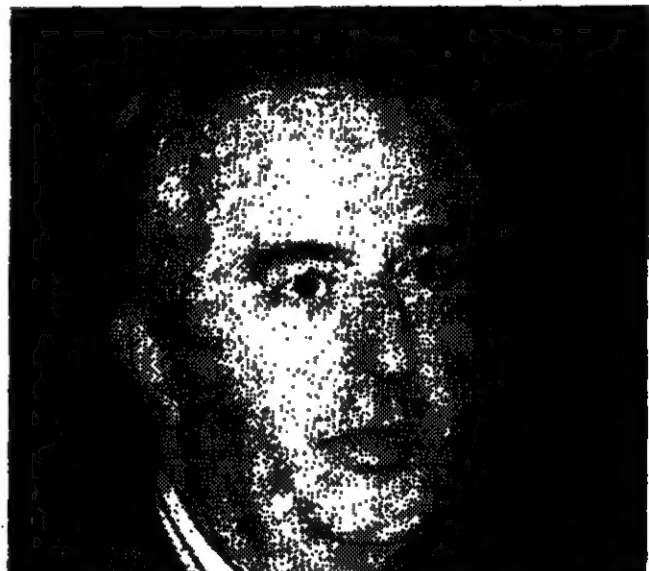
By opting for the direct Maastricht route towards Emu, Mr Balladur believes that the EC has taken the wrong course.

Europe would have been better served, Mr Balladur says, by agreeing to proceed towards Emu "on an experimental basis".

This would have involved a European central bank issuing the Euro in parallel to and in competition with national EC currencies, leaving national central banks with their powers intact.

This is similar to the course of action favoured by Britain in its celebrated "hard Euro" proposals put forward in 1990. With the archives of a man accustomed to handing out advice, Mr Balladur claims credit as one of the sponsors of the "hard Euro" idea, which he says he suggested to Mr John Major when the latter was Britain's chancellor of the exchequer.

If Mr Balladur does, after all, make it to the French prime minister's office next year, he and Mr Major may find they have time to exchange views on matters running well beyond the Euro.



Edouard Balladur, tipped as a future French premier

Germany delays European fighter decision for week

By Quentin Peel in Bonn

THE increasingly confused debate in Germany over the future of the European Fighter Aircraft was thrown into fresh turbulence yesterday when the parliamentary leaders of the Christian Democrats (CDU) and Christian Social Union (CSU) agreed to postpone a decision by one week.

The move was reported to have been made at the request of Chancellor Helmut Kohl, under pressure from his fellow leaders in Britain, Italy and Spain to keep a German foothold in the multinational project.

The debate over the EFA, known in Germany as the Jäger-90, has split the ruling coalition, and Mr Kohl is clearly struggling to find a solution which will satisfy both his own CDU and the Bavaria-based CSU.

Mr Volker Rühe, the defence minister, is now publicly in favour of pulling out of the £21bn (\$28bn) project, while Mr Theo Waigel, the CSU leader and finance minister, is ironically campaigning to preserve it - not least to protect the military aerospace industry in Bavaria.

A report in the conservative newspaper Die Welt yesterday said that Mr Kohl and Mr Wolfgang Schäuble, the floor leader of the CDU in the Bundestag, had decided to withdraw their support for Mr Rühe in the stormy debate.

Mr Schäuble had been convinced by the defence establishment's arguments in favour of the aircraft, while Mr Kohl was anxious not to offend Britain, Italy and Spain, the newspaper said.

Public opinion in Germany remains overwhelmingly hostile to the Jäger-90, seen as a

symbol of extravagant defence spending in the post-Cold War era.

Defence experts argue that it is the only aircraft capable of meeting the requirements of the Luftwaffe past the year 2000, and that any less well-adapted alternative would anyway be quite as expensive in the long run.

A decision on the aircraft needs to be made for the draft 1993 budget, in order to allocate DM100m (£34.2m) for tooling up for production.

One compromise proposal is to leave a line in the budget which must be presented on July 1, without allocating any funds to the project. This would effectively postpone any decision until next year.

The Financial Times (Europe) Ltd. Published by The Financial Times (Europe) GmbH, Frankfurt Branch, Neibergengasse 1, 6000 Frankfurt-am-Main. Telephone 49 69 158550; Fax 49 69 324441; Telex 416193. Represented by: E. Hugo, Managing Director. Printer: DVM GmbH-Hütten International, 6075 Neu-Isenburg 4. Responsible editor: Richard Lambert, Financial Times, Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. The Financial Times Ltd. 1992.

Registered office: Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Company incorporated under the laws of England and Wales. Chairman: D.E.P. Palmer. Main shareholders: The Financial Times Limited, The Financial Times New Limited. Publishing director: J. Rolley, 168 Rue de Rivoli, 75004 Paris. Codes 01. Tel: (01) 4297 0621; Fax: (01) 4297 0633. Editor: Richard Lambert. Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. Telephone: (33) 1 44 41 41. Fax: (33) 933335.

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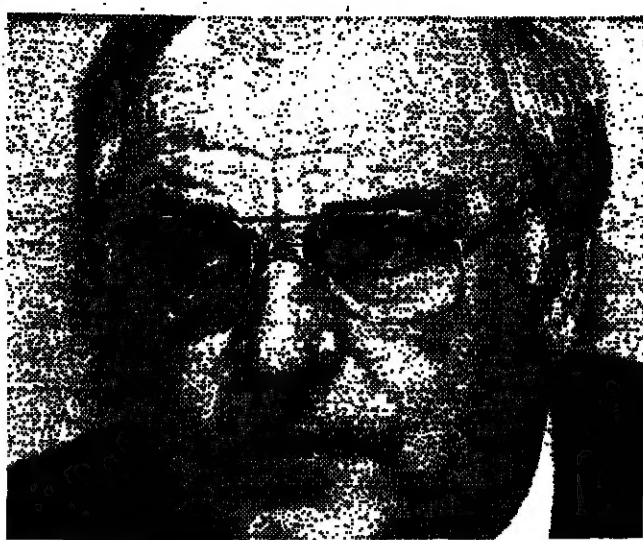
Lisbon summit 'crucial to Gatt'

By David Dodwell, World Trade Editor in London, and Frances Williams in Geneva

A POLITICAL initiative by EC leaders - most prominently Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl - will be needed at the Lisbon summit later this week if the Uruguay Round of world trade talks is to avoid collapse, negotiators in Brussels and Geneva said yesterday.

The talks are "totally and utterly blocked", senior staff at the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), said over the weekend. This was due to a dispute between the EC and the US over reform of world trade in farm products. Pessimism about a settlement has prompted calls by some trade negotiators in Geneva for a ministerial meeting next month formally to bury or resurrect the Uruguay Round.

After last week's failure in Geneva to reinvigorate the detailed country-by-country negotiations on lowering tariff



Kohl: Germany is seen as having pivotal influence

barriers, some countries have apparently asked Mr Arthur Dunkel, director-general of GATT, to call a ministerial meeting of the trade negotiations committee to decide on the future of the Round.

EC negotiators insist that no issue of substance now prevents a US-EC agreement on farm trade. "Things are no longer in the hands of negotiators," an EC official said. "It has become more of a political problem, and much will now depend on a *prise de conscience* from leaders of member states in Lisbon, given that the commission is fairly divided on the issue."

In a Lisbon agenda already thrown into disarray by con-

cern over the Maastricht treaty, negotiators are not confident EC leaders can muster the will to push for settlement of the Uruguay Round. Officials look to Chancellor Kohl because Germany takes up the EC presidency at the end of the year, and because of Germany's pivotal influence on Europe's farm policy.

EC officials acknowledge that a common EC position on the Uruguay Round will be formulated in Lisbon, but were unclear whether this *prise de conscience* - or "awakening" - would enable a US-EC settlement to be drafted ahead of the summit of leaders from the Group of Seven industrial countries in Munich in July.

IBM, Toshiba in new-generation chip link-up

By Stefan Wagstyl in Tokyo

IBM, the US computer maker, and Toshiba, the Japanese electronics group, are planning to join forces in the development of a new generation of microchips.

According to electronics industry executives in Japan, the two companies are discussing a partnership in flash memory devices, a type of chip which could eventually replace hard disk memories inside computers.

Such a development could

greatly reduce the cost and weight of computers. Unlike existing memory chips, flash memory devices retain information even after the power to a machine has been switched off.

The two companies declined to comment on the discussions. IBM said it was talking to various potential partners about the possible joint development of various products, including flash memories.

Toshiba said it was discussing a possible partnership in flash memories with another

company and an announcement would be made "soon".

The partnership, if it goes ahead, would be an example of a growing trend among electronics groups to pool resources for the development, manufacture and even marketing of new products. Even for companies as large as IBM and Toshiba, the investments needed for new products have become so daunting that they are increasingly seeking to share risk.

Toshiba was among the first companies to develop flash

memories but Intel, the US microchip maker, was more successful in producing and marketing the devices and has a world market share estimated at 80 per cent. Intel earlier this year signed an agreement with Sharp, the Japanese electronics group, for Sharp to make chips for Intel.

For both Toshiba and IBM, an alliance would create a large enough base to challenge Intel. IBM was once reluctant to strike technology-sharing partnerships with outside companies, but competitive pres-

sures have forced it to seek such alliances to stay abreast of the latest developments in technology. IBM and Toshiba already co-operate in the production of colour liquid crystal display screens.

Meanwhile, Toshiba is today expected to announce a separate partnership with Apple, the US computer maker, in the field of multi-media, a business where computer, audio and television technologies are combined to create entertainment and business-use products.

Japan promises closer co-operation with EC

By Stefan Wagstyl in Tokyo

JAPAN yesterday pledged closer co-operation with the EC, in a wide-ranging review of its relations with Europe, Stefan Wagstyl reports from Tokyo. The review follows a similar paper published by the EC a month ago containing sharp criticism of Japanese trade practices, and prompting a protest from Tokyo.

The foreign affairs ministry has eschewed the chance to hit back in its own review. Mr Hisashi Owada, vice-minister for foreign affairs, is taking a conciliatory line. In response to EC demands for steps to improve foreign groups' access to Japanese markets, the

report said the requests should be dealt with under GATT's Uruguay Round trade talks.

The paper welcomed European companies' efforts to enter Japanese markets and improve their competitiveness in high-technology industries. The reviews follow the EC-Japan declaration on bilateral issues signed by Mr Jacques Delors, EC president, and Mr Toshiki Kaifu, then Japan's premier. Mr Kaifu's successor, Mr Kiichi Miyazawa, is to meet Mr Delors and Mr John Major, UK prime minister and the next European Council of Ministers president, while visiting Europe next month.

Japanese steel venture in Italy

By Haig Simonian in Milan

ILVA, Italy's state steel company, yesterday signed an accord with Nisshin Steel of Japan to co-operate on products for car exhausts in what is believed to be the first direct investment by a Japanese steelmaker in Italy.

The deal, although relatively modest, comes at a crucial time for Ilva. The European Commission has taken an interest in recent capital increases and the possible cancellation plans for a stock market quotation by the company. Nisshin Steel, Japan's sixth biggest steelmaker, is buying 10 per cent of Tubificio di

Terni, which operates at Ilva's Terni steelworks in central Italy. Ilva owns 75 per cent of the company, with the remainder held by Sital, a privately owned Italian steelmaker.

No value has been placed on the deal, as the precise figure is still being studied, Ilva says. Following the transaction, in the form of a rights issue reserved for Nisshin Steel, the stakes of Ilva and Sital will fall to 67.5 per cent and 22.5 per cent respectively.

Tubificio di Terni was created three years ago in a restructuring of Sital and makes stainless steel pipes for car exhausts. Demand for such products is expected to rise

with the growing popularity of catalytic converters on new motor vehicles.

Nisshin Steel, Japan's leading producer of stainless steel pipes for exhaust systems, will provide technical assistance for the next five years for the Terni facility, where a new high-frequency production line is to be installed next year.

Ilva has been looking for outside partners for a number of its operations, to ease its financial problems and meet commitments to the European Commission.

The group may also try to bring in a European steelmaker as partner in the Terni tubes venture.

Brazilian economy paces Mercosur's tariffs timetable

Stephen Fidler looks at prospects for a S American customs union

DOUBTS are surfacing about whether Mercosur, the proposed customs union which groups Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay, can meet its ambitious targets.

Under the March 1991 Treaty of Asunción, which created Mercosur, member countries began cutting tariffs last November as the first stage of a step-by-step reduction of all internal tariff barriers.

They are scheduled to disappear by the end of 1994, when a customs union should be in place with a common external tariff, likely to be above 10 per cent. After that, negotiations are scheduled to start towards a common market.

The Argentine economy minister, Mr Domingo Cavallo, raised a furor last month when he voiced doubts about whether these targets could be met. The big question, he suggested, was the ability of Brazil to stabilise its economy.

Although the subsequent furore forced the minister to backtrack on his statement, the state of the Brazilian economy is Mercosur's biggest problem. The Brazilian government's lack of success in bringing down inflation and stabilising the economy suggests it will remain so for some time.

The concern is that an unstable Brazilian economy will be reflected in sharp fluctuations in exchange rates and therefore in the competitiveness of Brazilian industry. The impact of these swings on Brazil's trading partners will be amplified by the abolition of tariffs.

The concern of some Argentine businesses is heightened by their government's own exchange rate policy. Argentina has achieved a measure of economic stability by fixing its currency to the US dollar since April 1991. With Argentine retail price inflation running well above US levels, there are worries anyway about Argentine competitiveness.

The Brazilian government position is still that "the timetable is going to be fulfilled."

This is even though the potential advantages to the other members - Brazil's economy is well over five times the size of the other three combined - suggests Brazil's commitment to the customs accord may be weaker than the other governments. As one senior Argentine official said: "We have to concede that Mercosur is probably much more important to us than it is to Brazil."

However, Brazil's new foreign minister, Mr Celso Lafer, has said: "We think of Mercosur as a platform for our com-

petitive insertion into the world." Mercosur's importance, say senior officials, is as an instrument for transforming the economy and improving competitiveness.

Brazilian officials insist that the timetable for tariff reduction is already in place, and not for negotiation. They point out that a protocol on dispute settlement was adopted in December, and that 1992 priorities include practical issues such as hastening deregulation of transportation.

There are other difficulties, including fears that the impact of tariff abolition is yet to be understood, and that Brazil's industry constitutes a threat to its neighbours.

The decision to aim for across-the-board tariff reduction, rather than a product-by-product approach, was aimed at weakening the influence of lobbies seeking protection for specific industries and at lending credibility to the liberalisation policies.

However, according to Mr Winston Frisch, professor of economics at the Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro: "Given the existing productivity differentials in some sectors, it is difficult to believe that the timetable will be met in full as programmed. The likely outcome will be a revision of the 1994 deadline to meet the structural adjustment problems of sensitive products to a more realistic time frame."

Mercosur has also decided to negotiate as a group with the US, with which it has a framework agreement as a first step towards a free trade accord. There are worries in Argentina that this means Brazil will slow the pace of the group's negotiations on an FTA with the US. Moreover, the expansion of the group to include Chile is likely to be delayed by Chilean worries about the effect of Brazilian economic instability.

With or without Mercosur, general reductions of tariff levels are already stimulating intra-regional trade. The potential for growth is significant: only 15 per cent of Brazil's trade is with the rest of Latin America, of which 9 per cent is with other Mercosur countries.

Brazilian officials expect trade between Brazil and Argentina to rise to \$4bn this year, up 30 per cent on 1991. Trade within the Mercosur region expanded from about \$1.6bn in 1985 to \$4.9bn in 1991. Brazilian exports to Mercosur countries totalled \$2.3bn in 1991, up 77 per cent on 1990.

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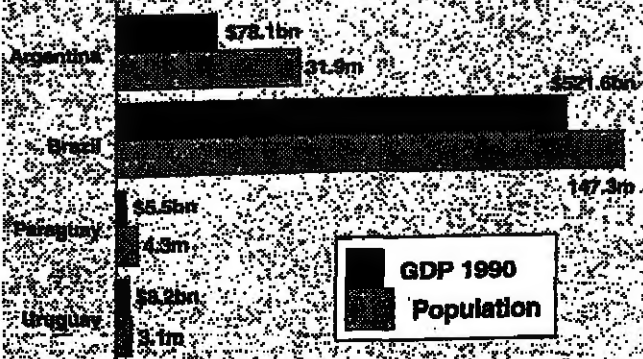
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Strength for the future



NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

UN funds for Cambodia top expectations

By Steven Butler in Tokyo

THE United Nations Development Programme yesterday raised pledges worth \$880m (£476m) for the reconstruction of Cambodia, far exceeding expectations of \$600m, at a Tokyo conference attended by 33 nations, the European Community and 12 international organisations.

The success of the conference at raising funds, however, was overshadowed by continuing doubt about the future of the UN peace process in Cambodia, where the communist Khmer Rouge has refused to comply with the crucial second phase of a programme calling for disarmament and demobilising troops on the ground.

The Khmer Rouge appeared isolated at the conference and was repeatedly criticised for obstructing implementation of the Paris Agreements, aimed at bringing peace to the country and which it signed last year. A meeting was under way late last night between the factions to the Cambodian conflict, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, and representatives of France and Indonesia, which chaired the Paris meeting.

Mr Georges Kijman, the junior French foreign affairs minister, said the meeting was aimed at convincing the Khmer Rouge there was no alternative to the peace plan.

An immediate formal reply from the Khmer Rouge was, however, not expected. It has refused to comply with the terms of the peace accord because it says Vietnamese

troops remain in the country. This was denied yesterday by Mr Yasushi Akashi, head of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac).

The Khmer Rouge has also objected to the disbursement of some funds for essential services through the existing Phnom Penh government, on the grounds that this will strengthen the government in elections scheduled for next year. Mr Akashi said, however, that spending would be strictly controlled by Untac.

Delegates appeared determined to push the peace process through even if the Khmer Rouge continued to obstruct the agreement.

Mr Lawrence Eagleberger, the US deputy secretary of state, told the conference: "The peace process can go forward in their absence."

The US threat was to halt disburse money to Khmer Rouge-controlled areas.

The way that money is spent has become a highly political issue because of its possible impact on the voting in elections scheduled for next spring.

The UN is aiming to repatriate 370,000 refugees before the election, and how they are settled could strongly influence the voting.

Japan was the biggest contributor, pledging between \$150m and \$200m, although some of this money had been previously pledged. The US was second largest contributor with \$135m, with France providing \$57m, the EC \$40.2m, and Britain \$30m.

Coalition with Likud widely predicted as the likely outcome to today's election

Polls put Labour ahead in Israel

By Hugh Carnegie in Jerusalem

FINAL opinion polls for today's Israeli general election were unanimous yesterday in putting the opposition Labour party ahead of the ruling Likud.

However they indicated a stalemate once support for small parties allied to the big two were taken into account, reinforcing widespread speculation that a Labour-Likud coalition is likely.

Labour, led by Mr Yitzhak Rabin, a former prime minister, is desperate to overturn 15 years of Likud supremacy, replacing the uncompromising ideology of its rival with a more pragmatic approach which it promises will produce early progress in Middle East peace negotiations and restore frayed relationships with the US.

Likud, under Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the 76-year-old prime minister, has been on the defensive throughout the campaign, internally divided and often giving the appearance of a political force past its prime.

Three election-day polls gave Labour a lead of between nine and 14 seats over Likud in the 120-seat Knesset. Such a gap would represent a big breakthrough for Labour, given the marginal swings usually seen in Israeli elections. It would give Mr Rabin the whip-hand in the inevitable coalition bargaining that would start tomorrow.

But similar polls in previous



Yitzhak Shamir steadies himself on a choir girl as he descends stairs at a memorial for pre-independence guerrillas

elections turned out to be wrong. A fourth poll yesterday, based on the widest sample, put the Labour lead at only two seats. Two of the polls also predicted Likud would be able to muster a narrow majority along with small right-wing and religious parties.

Labour has focused on Mr Rabin's tough image in its attempt to woo disaffected

Likud supporters, who are thought to make up a large portion of the 20 per cent undecided voters.

In its final television broadcasts, the party ran clips from 1976 of Menachem Begin, the great Likud hero and then leader of the opposition, warmly praising Mr Rabin, then prime minister, for ordering the successful commando rescue of a hijacked airliner at

Entebbe airport in Uganda.

A key to the result may lie in the 500,000 first-time voters, more than half of whom are recent immigrants from the former Soviet Union, and in the 390,000 Arab voters.

To succeed, Labour needs to win heavily among the former, and either a big direct vote from Arabs or a strong result for the three Arab-based parties which would sup-

port a Labour-led government.

Altogether 35 parties are standing, encouraged to do so by the system of proportional representation in which there are no local constituencies and seats are distributed according to the proportion of national votes. However, this year the minimum needed to enter the Knesset has been raised from 1 per cent of votes cast to 1.5 per cent.

Thailand's PM pledges fair election

By Victor Mallet in Bangkok

THAILAND'S interim prime minister, Mr Anand Panyarachun, promised yesterday that his government would ensure a clean and orderly election, while pro-military political parties made apparently hopeless last-minute efforts to avert a dissolution of parliament and the calling of a new poll.

Mr Anand said in a policy speech to parliament: "The government will maintain strict political neutrality without assisting or hurting any political parties or groups." Elections, which Mr Anand said would be "orderly, clean and fair to all", are expected in September.

Mr Anand was appointed caretaker prime minister by King Bhumibol to resolve a political deadlock. At least 50 pro-democracy demonstrators were shot dead by troops last month, forcing the resignation of Gen Suchinda Kraprayoon, the premier installed by the pro-military parties after elections in March.

Many people are still missing after the violence, arousing suspicions that they were killed and their bodies secretly disposed of by the army.

Opponents of the military blame the outgoing coalition of pro-military parties for failing to restrain the troops during the violence, but politicians in the coalition are reluctant to relinquish power or to mount another expensive election campaign so soon after the last one.

Buying votes with cash is common in the rural areas of Thailand where the pro-military politicians hold sway, and members of parliament like to recoup their investment by participating in the lucrative and often corrupt business of government before spending any more money.

Some of the politicians loosely grouped in opposition to the coalition have also been known to buy votes.

Mr Anand - who ran the country as caretaker prime minister between the coup d'état in February 1991 and the March elections - said he would continue to promote free market economic policies, and would uphold civil rights and press freedom.

Liberia faces sanctions threat

WEST AFRICAN foreign ministers threatened yesterday to impose economic sanctions on Liberia if Liberian groups kept obstructing a peace plan, Reuters reports from Dakar.

The ministers also accused Mr Charles Taylor's National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL) of murdering 600 soldiers in Senegal's peacekeeping contingent on May 28.

First of the eight 'elders'

Chinese revolutionary leader dies

By Yvonne Preston in Beijing



Li: orthodox economics in the traditional Marxist mold

VETERAN Chinese leader Li Xian'an has died in Beijing at the age of 83. Li was president for a five-year term from 1983, and is the first of China's eight "revolutionary elders" to go "to meet Marx".

His death was announced yesterday by the official Xinhua news agency. He had been in poor health for some time. In March illness kept him from the annual meeting of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, a largely powerless body, of which he was chairman.

Li was one of the first Chinese leaders to appear on national television after the suppression of the pro-democracy movement in June 1989, to defend the army's handling of "the turmoil".

A self-taught economist who favoured central planning, he supported China's modernisation process after the chaos of the Cultural Revolution but became increasingly concerned about the economic liberalism of the reformers.

Li championed a more orthodox economic approach in the traditional Marxist

mould, identifying himself with the leftist economic policies of the post-Mao period which are now under official criticism. His death removes another obstacle to the reform process favoured by the most powerful revolutionary elder, Deng Xiaoping.

Born in 1909 to a peasant family in Hubei province, Li worked as a carpenter, joining the communist party at the age of 22. A veteran of the Long March, he became governor of his native province after the Communist victory, moving to Beijing where he became finance minister and a member of the politburo.

Of all China's senior politicians he was alone in weathering the political storms that have afflicted China since 1949, surviving even the Cultural Revolution as a supporter of Premier Zhou Enlai when almost all Zhou's colleagues were purged.

After that Li played an important role in arresting the Gang of Four in 1976, among them Mao's widow Jiang Qing.

In the largely ceremonial post of president, Li travelled the world, and in Beijing played host to national leaders, among them the Queen and Mr Ronald Reagan.

Algerian subsidy removal cuts import bill

By Francis Ghille

A WEEKEND decision by Algeria to remove subsidies from all basic foodstuffs - with the exception of bread, semolina and milk, for which subsidies have been halved - is expected to save the country \$500m (£270m) worth of imports or a quarter of its total foreign food bill in a full year.

This year's savings are expected to amount to around \$150m. Food imports account for a quarter of all Algerian imports.

The decision by the government of Mr Sid Ahmed Ghouali removes a big hurdle in discussions with the International Monetary Fund, with which Algeria is negotiating its third standby credit since 1983.

It will also comfort western

creditors, in particular Italy and Japan, which have encouraged lenders to refinance Algerian state or commercial bank debt as a gesture of support for reforms aimed at liberalising the country's economy.

The move will halve the cost of food subsidies, which would have amounted to AD\$2bn (£1.3bn) this year. The 7.4m poorest Algerians, out of a population of 25m, will be spared

the worst, as a safety net, which by all accounts is working reasonably well, introduced welfare payments to them three months ago.

The liberalisation will end the large black market in commodities such as sugar, coffee and dairy products conducted with Morocco and Tunisia, where prices on such products have been much higher than in Algeria for years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Allegations against Ramos swept aside

A JOINT session of the Philippine Congress yesterday formally proclaimed Mr Fidel Ramos the country's next president, sweeping aside allegations by rival candidates of large-scale fraud, Reuters reports from Manila.

Film star Mr Joseph Estrada was proclaimed vice president in the session which capped a convoluted six-week counting process following the May 11 national elections.

Mr Ramos, 64, a former defence chief, takes over from Mrs Corason Aquino on June 30.

The Reserve Bank of India, the central bank, has meanwhile issued new guidelines for interbank transactions of securities, banning what are called "ready forward" deals.

Egyptian lawyer sentenced

A Cairo court sentenced lawyer Rashad Nabil to three years' imprisonment yesterday for writing a bad cheque for E£1.64bn (£260m) in connection with a massive Islamic banking scandal, Reuters reports from Cairo. The cheque was meant to repay some 187,000 depositors in the collapsed al-Rayhan Islamic investment company. Judge Gamal el-Kholi said Nabil could pay E£1m as an alternative to prison.

Taiwan to let exiles return

The Taiwanese government yesterday to allow scores of exiled dissidents to return, Reuters reports from Taipei. Government leaders and officials of the ruling Kuomintang party decided to revise the National Security Law to permit the dissidents' return, said Mr Wang Ching-ping, parliamentary whip. Activists were excited for advocating that Taiwan declare independence and abandon its official goal of reunification with China.

Chemical weapons pact nears completion

By Frances Williams in Geneva

AN INTERNATIONAL treaty outlawing chemical weapons looks virtually certain to be completed this summer, after negotiations lasting more than 20 years.

Mr Adolf von Wagner of Germany, current chairman of the ad hoc committee on chemical weapons of the United Nations Disarmament Conference, yesterday presented the committee with what he expects to be the final treaty draft. If all goes according to plan, the treaty will be endorsed by governments within the next seven weeks and approved by the UN General Assembly in New York this autumn before a signing ceremony in Paris early next year.

The chemical weapons convention, the most ambitious multilateral disarmament accord ever attempted, will ban the development, production, stockpiling and use of toxic arms and require the destruction of all stockpiles and production facilities within ten years of the treaty coming into force.

The chemical weapons ban will be policed by an international inspectorate, to be based in The Hague, with wide-ranging and intrusive powers to enter and search not only highly sensitive military installations, but also civilian chemical plants making chemicals for peaceful uses such as fertilisers that could be diverted for weapons production.

The negotiations in the 38-member disarmament conference have been slowed by the difficulties of balancing the need for rigorous checks to uncover and deter cheating with countries' desire to protect military and commercial secrets. The US last year backed off its own proposal in 1984 for inspections "anywhere, anytime".

This followed objections from the Pentagon that open access would allow countries to snoop around military establishments developing, say, stealth bomber technology on the pretext of looking for chemical weapons.

The provisions for inspections now allow countries to protect military or trade secrets through "managed access" which would, for instance, enable countries to shroud equipment, hide documents, shut off computers or restrict individual inspectors to different parts of the site. Governments will not be able to refuse access altogether, however.

Some Third World countries, notably China and Pakistan, have been reluctant to allow any inspection of civilian facilities or undeclared military installations. However, they are not expected to block the proposed treaty, which requires a consensus of Disarmament Conference members.

About 50 countries, including all the members of the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe (CSCE), have said they will sign the treaty, enough to bring into being the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons which will administer it. The convention will come into force two years after the signing ceremony, provided 66 nations have ratified it.

Western negotiators were hopeful that most countries would sign eventually.

Iran seeks silken ties with its Central Asian neighbours

Emphasis placed on trade revival and extension of transport networks to gain regional influence, writes Tony Walker

WHEN President Hashemi Rafsanjani last month inaugurated work on a railway between Iran and neighbouring Turkmenistan, an enthusiastic Iranian press portrayed it as one more example of links being forged between Iran and its Central Asian neighbours.

Mr Rafsanjani reminded his audience in the north-eastern city of Mashhad that the railway would provide a link between landlocked Central Asia and the "open seas" through the southern border of Iran, also forming a "bridge" between Europe and Asia.

The Turkmenistan railway is not the only transport project used by Iran to capitalise on its proximity to the Central Asian republics. Tehran recently announced that it plans to spend \$2.5bn upgrading and extending a railway line from the Caspian Sea to the Gulf.

The main work left to be done is to extend an existing line from the town of Sari in northern Iran to the Caspian port of Freydan Kenar. Both this port and Bandar Abbas on

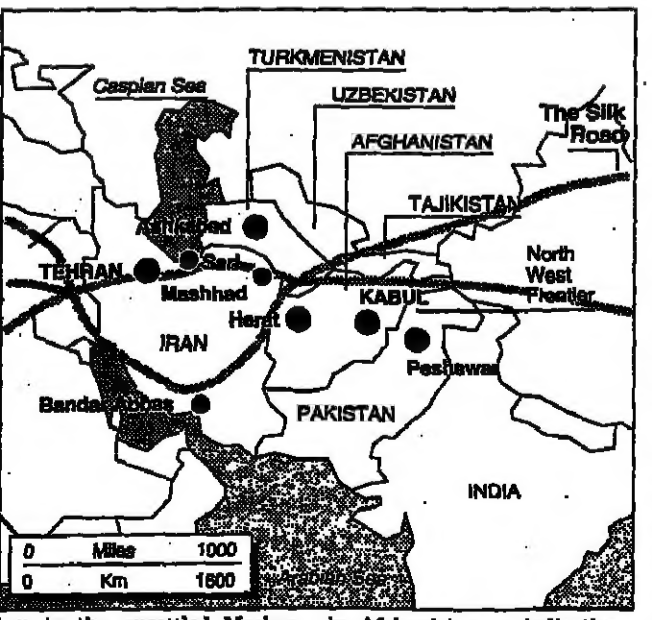
the Gulf will have to be expanded significantly to cope with an estimated 5m to 8m tonnes of freight annually.

Iran clearly regards its ability to facilitate trade to and from the newly-emergent states as a key card in the evolving competition for power and influence in the region.

Six former Soviet republics - Kirgizia, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan - plus Turkey and Pakistan, recently gathered for a summit in Ashkhabad, the capital of Turkmenistan, and intriguingly, called for moves to re-open the Silk Road.

This ancient route, stretching some 4,000km from China through South and Central Asia, including what is now Iran, to the Levant, was pioneered in the second century BC, and was one of the principal conduits for the transport of silk to the Roman empire.

Iranian behaviour regarding its neighbours has thus far been exemplary, diminishing initial fears that Iran would seek to export its own potent brand of Islamic fundamental-



ism to the unsettled Moslem states following the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Western officials in Tehran cite Iran's efforts to mediate an end to the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan in Nagorno-Karabakh and its role in trying to calm the situation

destabilise the situation. What worries Iran is that ethnic conflict will filter down to Iran itself. About half Iran's population of 68m are ethnic minorities, including big concentrations of Kurds and Azeris in its northern regions.

In spite of the conventional view that Iran's intentions are fairly benign in the states to its north, it would be naive to believe that the country's theocratic leadership does not harbour ambitions to use religion as a means of enhancing Iran's regional influence.

Given the role of the Islamic republic of Iran in the region, our responsibilities are manifold," Mr Ali Akbar Velayati, Iran's foreign minister, said recently.

"Iran shares the Islamic heritage with her neighbouring countries, and, in view of the recent urge for independence in Central Asia, it has to fill the existing cultural and economic vacuum in the region. Hence, all countries that seek Iran's assistance in these realms will be welcomed." It is this sort of observation

and a challenging description by Mr Rafsanjani of the putative Economic Co-operation Organisation, grouping all the states of Central Asia plus Iran, Pakistan and Turkey, as "one great Moslem family", 250m strong, that troubles the west and the US in particular.

Iran's response to the collapse early in May of the conservative government in Farsi-speaking Tajikistan (Farsi is the language of Iran) was also hardly encouraging as far as western observers were concerned.

Tehran Radio hailed the triumph of the "Moslem people of Tajikistan" who were now engaged most importantly in a "renovation" of their "Islamic, national identity".

Mr William Taft, the US ambassador to Nato, observed recently that the situation in Central Asia was fragile, and it was therefore very important for the US to work closely with Turkey to ensure that the "Turkish model" prevails over the Iranian one.

Turkey, which has offered the Central Asian republics some \$1.2bn in credits, is fairly confident that it has the upper hand in the battle for hearts and minds. In this, Turkey is being aided by the fact that Turkic is the predominant language in the region and most people are Sunni Moslems, the less confrontational form of Islam practised in Turkey and in the Arab world.

But in a volatile situation no one can be sure how things will evolve, and Iran, although constrained by its own deep economic problems and the huge burden of post-war reconstruction, remains something of a wild card.

In Tehran, a Turkish official likened Central Asia to a laboratory. "We don't know what effect the various compounds will ultimately produce," he said.

"These people are going from communism to what? They have no real understanding of democracy. As far as Turkey is concerned we want to co-operate with Iran, rather than compete. These countries need so much help."

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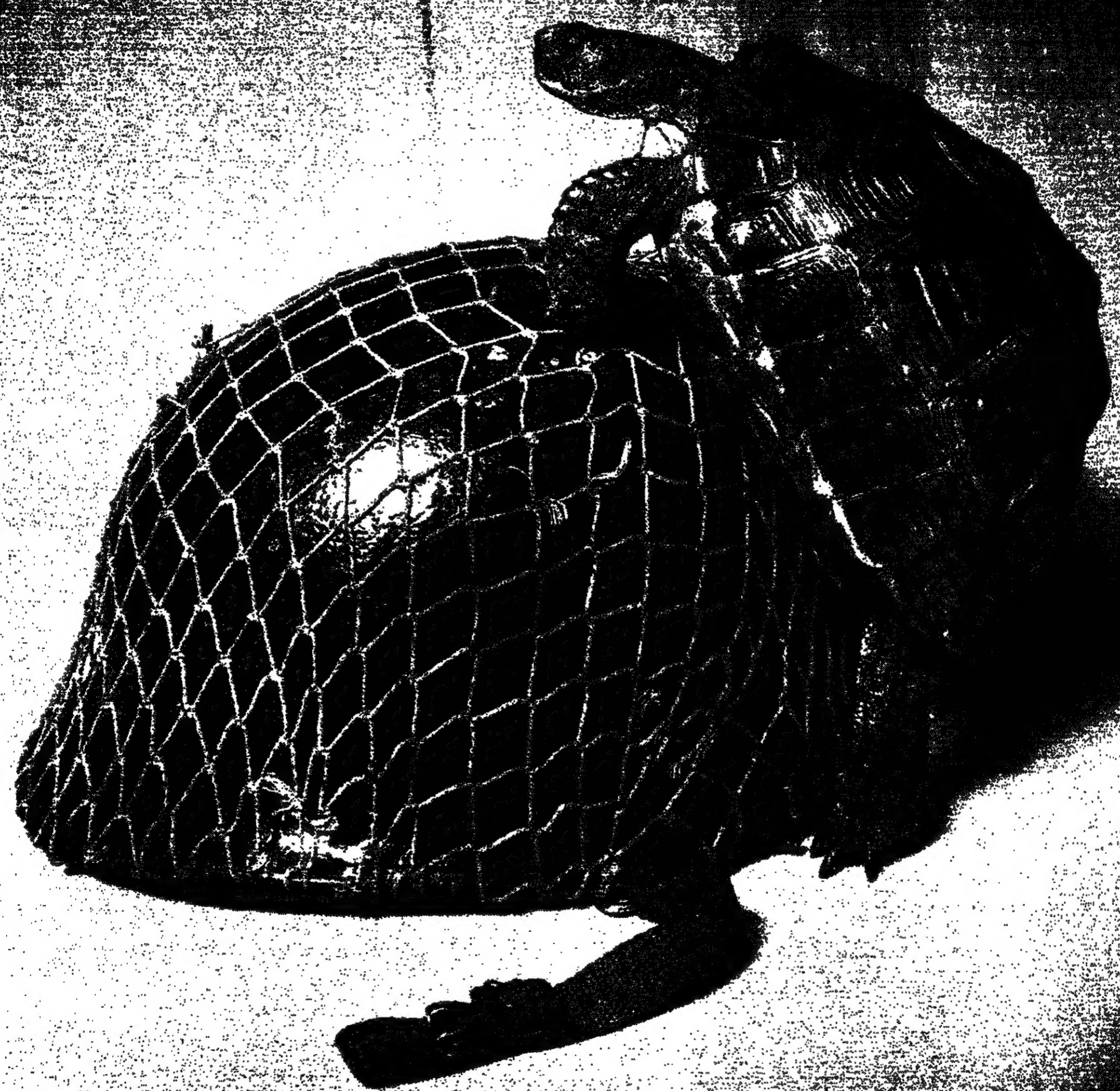
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NEWS: AMERICA

Clinton stresses jobs in economic strategy

By George Graham
in Washington

GOVERNOR Bill Clinton, the presumptive Democratic presidential candidate, yesterday returned his campaign to policy specifics, in which he excels, with a reformulation of his economic programme.

Refining the policies he endorsed during the four-month Democratic primary campaign, Mr Clinton called for an economic strategy that would create jobs by investing \$50bn (£27bn) a year in education and infrastructure, while cutting the federal budget deficit by half over four years.

Mr Clinton, the Arkansas governor, launched his programme at a meeting of the US Conference of Mayors in Houston. He emphasised proposals for "20bn a year of hard, federal dollars" to invest in transport and information technology infrastructure, as well as the creation of urban enterprise zones - a policy pressed by Mr Jack Kemp, secretary of housing and urban develop-

ment in the Bush administration - and more community policing.

His programme also calls for "lifetime learning" with investment in education all the way from kindergarten to adult retraining, as well as health-care reforms embracing the "play or pay" approach, by which employers would either have to provide health insurance for their employees or pay a levy into a state-run health insurance fund.

Mr Clinton still supports shifting the tax burden away from middle-income families towards the wealthiest taxpayers, but he has weakened his proposal for a middle-class tax cut, which drew from his principal Democratic opponent, Mr Paul Tsongas, the charge of pandering for votes.

The Clinton programme would now allow middle-income families either a child's tax credit or a reduction in their income tax rate - but not both, as he had previously advocated.

Higher income tax rates for

the richest 2 per cent of the population, coupled with a surtax on millionaires, would raise \$17.5bn of additional revenue in 1993, the Clinton plan says, rising to \$23bn in 1996.

The other main sources of revenue in Mr Clinton's programme are additional cuts in defence spending totalling \$37.5bn over four years, and measures to tax foreign subsidiaries operating in the US more heavily by clamping down on their transfer pricing arrangements with their parent companies.

Mr Clinton estimates that this could raise an additional \$45bn over four years.

Mr Clinton projects a federal budget deficit still totalling \$141bn in 1996 if growth remains moderate, compared with an expected deficit of \$400bn this year - a more modest claim than that of Mr Ross Perot, the prospective independent candidate, who said he could eliminate the deficit "without breaking a sweat".

'Gutsy governor' drops the gimmicks

Martin Dickson profiles the independent policies of Connecticut's Lowell Weicker

HE is being called the "gutsiest governor in America" and a precursor and political role model for Mr Ross Perot's independent bid for the US presidency.

Mr Lowell Weicker, the subject of these eulogies, is the governor of Connecticut, a small New England state not normally associated with the political cutting edge.

Yet Connecticut anticipated the nation's current distaste for mainstream party politics in 1990 when it elected Mr Weicker on an independent ticket - making him one of only a handful of politicians this century to have won state governorships without major party backing.

Mr Weicker kept Connecticut at the forefront of political consciousness by a long battle with the Democrat-controlled legislature which eventually pushed through the state's first income tax.

Locally, the move was extremely unpopular. Connecticut, a state of leafy suburbs boasting one of the highest per capita incomes in the US, prided itself on being among the few remaining states without a tax on income.

Mr Weicker, accused of breaking election promises, was spat on, hung in effigy before a crowd 40,000, and became the butt of bumper stickers demanding his impeachment.

Nationally, however, the tax tended to be viewed far more sympathetically: as a rare example of a politician prepared to put his neck on the block by taking tough, realistic action in a severe fiscal crisis. Time Magazine labelled him the "gutsiest governor" while

he recently won an award named after President John F. Kennedy - for political courage.

Such is Mr Weicker's national reputation that there have even been rumours he could emerge as Mr Perot's vice-presidential running mate. The Governor, however, insists there is absolutely no possibility of him quitting Connecticut to stand on anybody's Presidential ticket.

Certainly, he and Mr Perot do not appear to have much in common apart from their political independence and a plain-speaking manner. While Mr Perot is a self-made businessman with no political experience, Mr Weicker has spent 30 years as a professional politician - including 18 years in Washington as a Republican senator from Connecticut.

Aged 61, an imposing 6ft 10in tall, and a descendant of the family which founded the Squibb pharmaceuticals group, Mr Weicker made a name as an independent-minded Republican liberal in 1973 when he served on the Senate committee investigating the Watergate scandal and aggressively grilled President Nixon's White House staff.

His term as governor underlines some of the advantages and drawbacks of independent candidates. Mr Weicker con-



Lowell Weicker: wary of privatisation initiatives

tends he only managed to get the income tax bill into law because he was an outsider. "Neither party was going to lay claim to being the father of the tax," he says.

But independent candidates offering sweeping change can also generate unrealistic expectations of painless problem-solving, as the row over the Connecticut tax demonstrates.

During the gubernatorial campaign Mr Weicker did not explicitly rule out an income tax, but he did say such a levy would be like "pouring gasoline on the fire" of recession, and promised no new taxes if the state produced no new fiscal surprises.

Defending himself against accusations of lying, he points out that by the time he took office, Connecticut faced a fis-

cal deficit of \$1bn on an \$8bn budget - the highest percentage shortfall of any state in the union. "I'd say that's very much a new problem."

The income tax has been accompanied by a thorough reform of the state's tax structure, including a reduction in punitive business rates which were driving companies away.

However, the Governor insists he never set out to be quite such a thorough-going reformer. He settled on the income tax after three weeks of seeking

alternatives which did not work. He was not prepared to go along with the "tax accounting gimmicks, smoke and mirrors, crooked Outja boards and other apparatus of deception that had led to our fiscal crisis. We resolved government would tell the truth to the people and attempt to fix the problems for the long term rather than for the next election."

The budget crisis has now eased following spending cuts and a shake-up of the civil service which removed 10 per cent of its jobs and amalgamated many services. Mr Weicker, however, is wary of the privatisation initiatives being embraced by many other governors. "There's a lot to be said for some of it, but some of it is overblown."

His top concerns now include reviving the inner cores of cities like Hartford, Bridgeport and New Haven, islands of minority deprivation in Connecticut's sea of affluence; and attracting business to an economy hit extremely hard by recession and US defence cuts. The state is putting together \$200m of its own funds, together with a \$1bn from the private sector, to ease a credit crunch.

As for the cities, Mr Weicker argues that one reason so many US initiatives fail is because they adopt a uniform "one size fits all" policy which fails to take account of the uniqueness of each urban area. He intends to pursue a case by case approach.

All this is improving Mr Weicker's local popularity. A recent poll in the Hartford Courant newspaper found that 41 per cent of the electorate thought his performance was good to excellent, up from 33 per cent.

The governor puts this down to the fact that "we faced up to reality. The state of Connecticut was exactly like the United States (after) 10 years of Reaganomics which said you can have it all and you don't have to pay for it. In essence, what the state of Connecticut - not just its government, but a group in the legislature, people in the street, said was: 'we know there's no such thing as a free lunch'."

"Whatever the problem is, apply realistic answers, not political answers, and the politics will take care of itself."

Easily said, but the test of this benign view will only come this autumn, when Connecticut's somewhat nervous legislators face re-election.

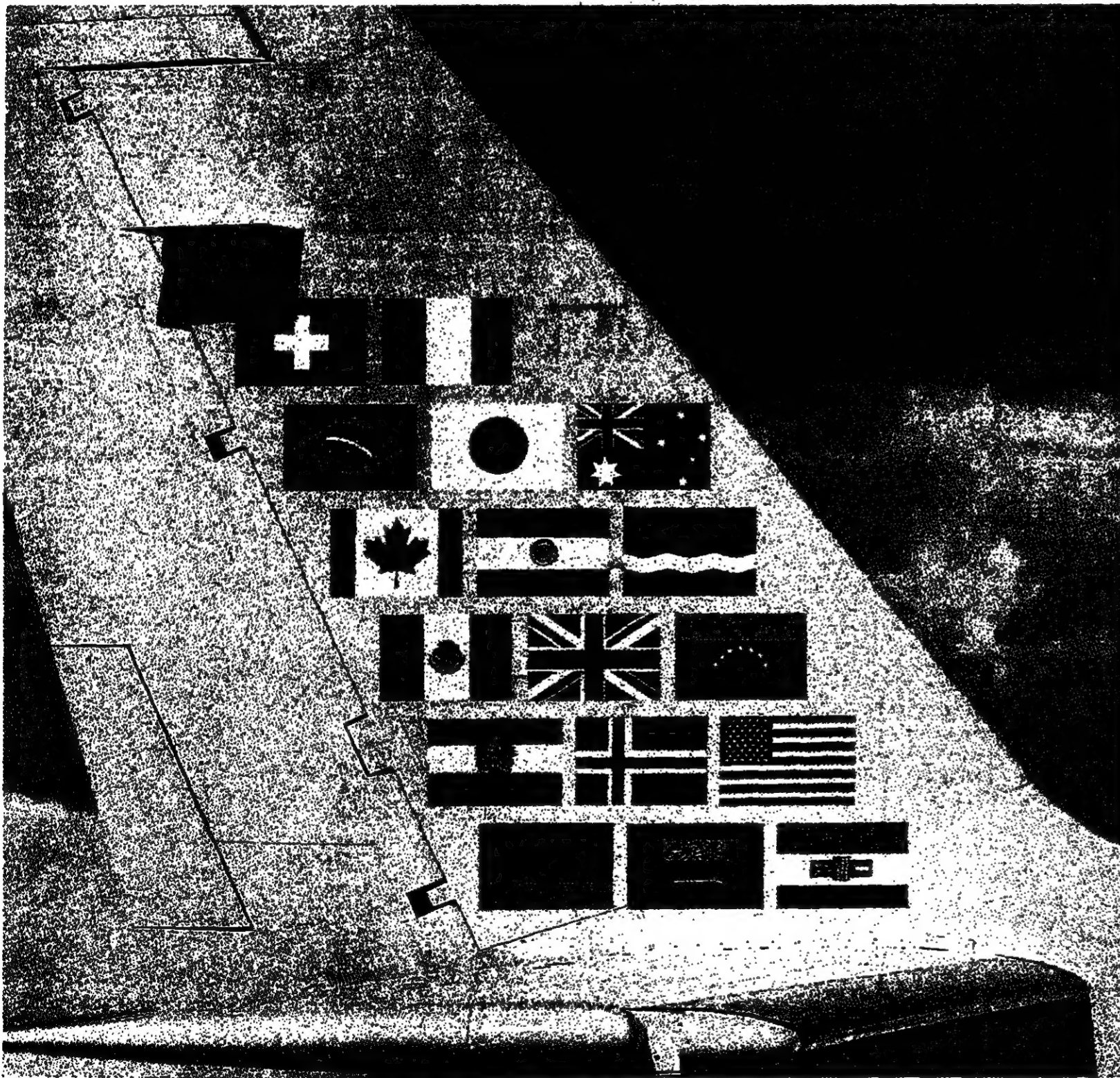
Citibank appeal turned down

THE US Supreme Court yesterday refused to overturn a ruling that US banks can be held responsible for deposits in foreign branches, even when those deposits are frozen by a foreign government, writes George Graham.

The court refused to hear an appeal by Citibank, the New York banking group, against an appeal court ruling that it must repay with interest the outstanding balance from a \$2m (£1.1m) deposit made in Manila in 1983 by the Singapore branch of Wells Fargo Bank. The Philippines government subsequently froze the

deposits of all foreign banks as part of a debt repayment moratorium.

Citibank's appeal had been backed by the administration, which argued that the appeal court decision would create "new and unforeseeable liabilities" for US banks "arising from the unpredictable actions of foreign governments". Mr Kenneth Starr, solicitor general, said that US banks should be held liable in such cases only if the two parties had agreed in advance that the home office should bear responsibility.



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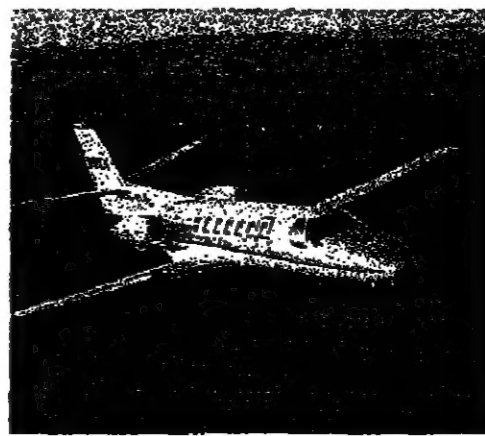
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Arrests in Exxon kidnap case fail to clear mystery

By Alan Friedman
in New York

THE mystery over the abduction of Mr Sidney Reso, president of Exxon's international division, has deepened, despite the arrest last week of a former Exxon security guard and his wife in connection with the case.

A team of more than 30 federal, state and local law enforcement officials followed a trail across the US before charging the couple with the April 29 kidnapping.

Yet police still do not know where Mr Reso is or whether he is alive. The FBI is searching for a third suspect, on the assumption that at least one other person is holding Mr Reso.

Some light has been shed on the case by court documents filed in connection with the arrests in New Jersey early last Friday morning of Mr Arthur Seale and his wife Irene. Mr Seale, 45, worked on security matters for Exxon until 1987, having served previously as a policeman in a New Jersey town.

The court documents say Exxon received the first ransom demand from the Seales within a day of Mr Reso's disappearance, when his car was found abandoned at the bottom of the driveway to his New Jersey home. The kidnappers then requested that Exxon set up a cellular telephone so that future messages could be phoned in.

A series of calls and letters continued to arrive in recent weeks, with one call two weeks ago from a Georgia telephone about 30 miles from Hilton Head, South Carolina, where the Seales had owned a yacht. Police following the trail of the Seales went as far as Vail, Colorado, where the Seales lived for a time after Mr Seale resigned from Exxon.

Last Tuesday, as Mr Reso's wife Patricia made a televised appeal for the return of her husband, the Seales allegedly used a tape recorded message, phoned in from a New Jersey phone box, to alert the authorities to a ransom letter that would be delivered to a local sheriff's office. The letter



Sidney Reso: could be held by third person

demanded millions of dollars of ransom, to be paid in used \$100 bills and placed in laundry bags.

By Thursday evening, after FBI agents had placed the Seales under surveillance, more phone calls gave instructions for the ransom. Nearly an hour after midnight on Friday, the Seales were arrested when they returned an Oldsmobile sedan to a car hire agency in New Jersey.

The police who arrested the couple found a 1985 directory of the home addresses of Exxon executives, along with rubber gloves and laundry bags.

The arrests mark the first break in the long-running case, but the FBI says the Seales, although questioned at the weekend, have refused to speak about Mr Reso's whereabouts.

The FBI has meanwhile confirmed that the Seales are the same people who sent a note in early May claiming to be members of an ecological extremist group called the Rainbow Warriors. But they doubt that the Seales have any ecological affiliation.

The Exxon case, according to Mr Joe Rosetti of Kroll Associates, private investigators, "looks like a classic, almost textbook kidnapping, of the kind you normally see in South America".

For Exxon, which is declining to comment on any details, the case looks like a deepening nightmare.

Collor renews offensive to clear name

PRESIDENT Fernando Collor of Brazil has again tried to regain the political initiative by denying allegations that he knew of corruption within his government, writes Bill Hinchberger in São Paulo.

"The time has come to say enough. The people will not stand for the lies, the falsehoods that have found shelter in the organs of the press," Mr Collor said in a Sunday night television broadcast.

Allegations of extortion and other wrongdoing by Mr Paulo César Farias, a businessman who was Mr Collor's campaign treasurer, originated with the president's brother, Mr Pedro Collor, and triggered a row within the Collor family. A parliamentary panel was set up to investigate the claims.

The local press has given much space to allegations by former officials who have yet to testify before the panel. The magazine *Veja* reported that Mr Renan Calheiros, former head of the parliamentary delegation for Mr Collor's National Renovation party (PRN), who said, among other things, that he had informed the president about alleged corruption in the government.

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NEWS: UK

Trade deficit cut by record export figures

By Peter Norman,
Economics Correspondent

RECORD exports last month helped to cut £500m off Britain's visible trade deficit in May, bringing the gap between exports and imports to the lowest level so far this year.

But the news failed to help sterling, which closed at the bottom of the European exchange rate mechanism and practically unchanged against the D-mark and the dollar in London last night.

The Central Statistical Statistical Office reported that the UK's visible trade deficit fell to a seasonally adjusted £48m in May from £136m in April following a 4 per cent jump in exports to £9.17bn last month and a 1.5 per cent drop in imports to £9.1bn.

It tentatively estimated that the UK's surplus from invisible trade such as banking, insurance and tourism was £200m in both May and April, implying a sharp fall in the current account deficit to £28m last month from £1.18bn in April. However, the improvements in the trade and current account figures largely reflected an increase in oil

exports and a drop in imports of aircraft in May.

After stripping out such items, last month's trade performance was broadly in line with that in the nine months to the end of March. While exports last month were a record in terms of value and volume, imports also reached new high in May in volume terms.

The figures indicated a recent weakening of the UK's trade position with the rest of the European Community, its main trading partner. Exports increased by only 1 per cent to £15.3bn in the three months to the end of May from £15.1bn in the three months to the end of February. In the same period imports from the EC increased by 4 per cent to £16.4bn from £15.75bn.

The Treasury welcomed the trade figures, but Mr Gordon Brown, the Labour opposition's trade spokesman, said statistics for the past year showing imports rising faster than exports were a sign that "the much promised post-election recovery has simply not materialised".

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Mortgage arrears rise

By John Willman and
David Barchard

THE NUMBER of homeowners more than six months in arrears with their mortgage payments has risen sharply to 290,000, according to a survey published by Shelter, the housing pressure group.

The survey in the pressure group's magazine Roof shows that while the level of short-term mortgage debt fell in the year to the end of March, the number of cases over six months in arrears rose by 38 per cent.

Steps taken to reduce the number of repossessions by lenders are partly responsible for the growth in arrears over six months, according to Ms

Janet Ford of Warwick University, the researcher who compiled the survey.

Until these moves, lenders normally began repossession proceedings when arrears exceeded six months. Cases which avoid repossession will increasingly show up in the long-term arrears figures.

Overall, the figures show a slight decline in the number of arrears of two months or more, which still affect one in 13 of the 9.8m outstanding loans for home purchase in the UK.

The survey says provision for bad debt rose rapidly in 1991, threatening the viability of some lenders. It is based on a sample of banks, insurance companies and the other centralised lenders.

Dockyards battle for Naval refit contracts

By James Buxton,
Scottish Correspondent

THE battle for survival between the UK's two naval dockyards took a fresh turn yesterday when Babcock Thorn, managers of Rosyth dockyard in Scotland, unveiled plans for a substantially cheaper facility for refitting Trident submarines than that proposed by the Ministry of Defence (MoD).

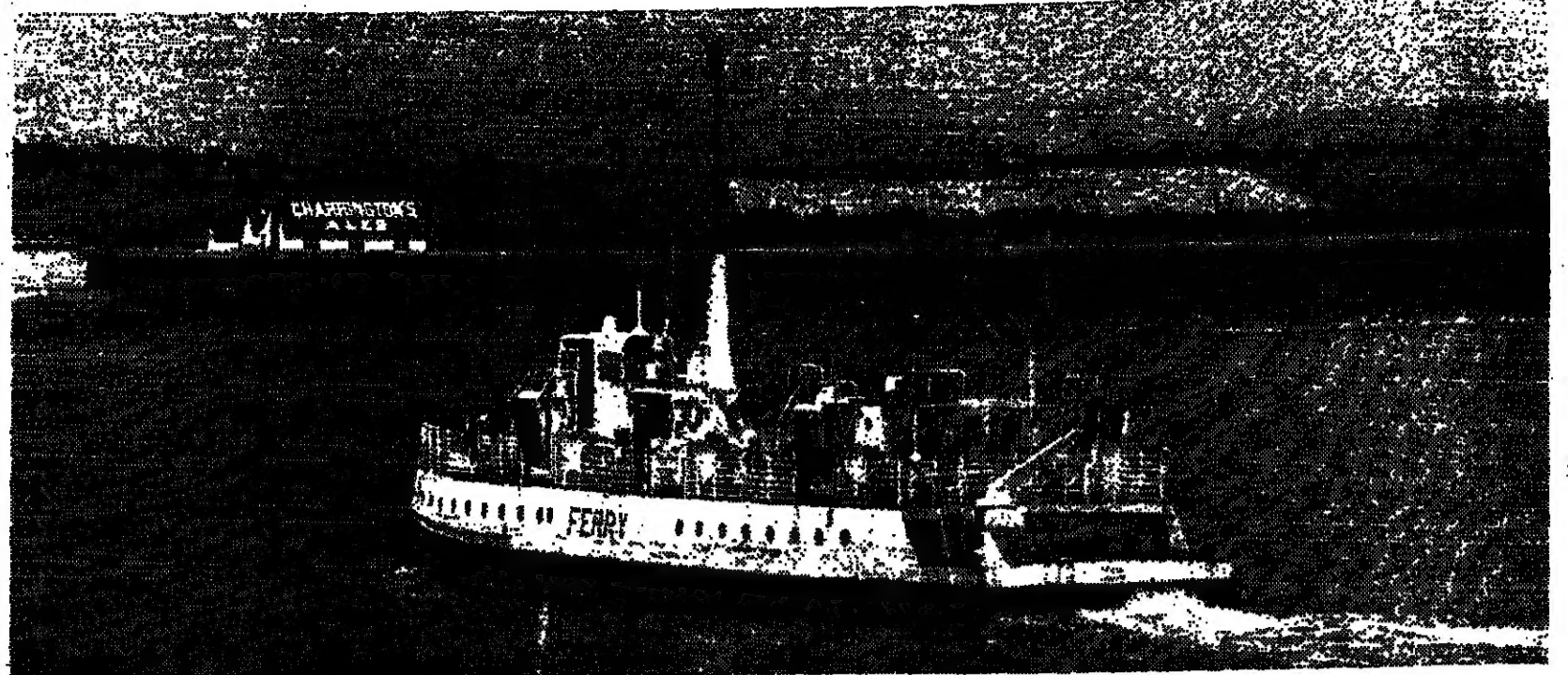
Babcock Thorn, a joint venture between Babcock and Thorn EMI, also proposed that the two yards - Rosyth and Devonport, in south west England - be brought under a single management structure. They have been managed by private operators since 1987.

It proposes that the two yards each specialise, with Rosyth concentrating on submarines and Devonport on surface ships.

The MoD is reviewing the navy's requirements for dockyards. Devonport, managed by Devonport Management (DML), whose partners are Brown and Root of the US, Balfour Beatty and Wair Group, claims it could handle all the navy's work, which could mean the closure of Rosyth.

The crucial issue in the contest between the two yards is a facility for refitting Trident submarines from 1998. The MoD has already spent £157m on laying foundations of two docks for Trident submarines at Rosyth. The second stage of its project would involve spending a further £480m on an enclosed dockyard. Yesterday, Babcock Thorn unveiled a cheaper version of the facility which would cost £267m. It said it would disperse with the covered dockyard since almost all refitting work takes place inside the submarines.

Mr Allan Smith, managing director of the dockyard, admitted that the £267m was more than the £200m which DML says its rival project would cost. But he said it was a safer location and would make use of the project on which the MoD had already spent £157m, with a further £18m to come.



Ferry operator told to stop service or face Crown's displeasure

OPERATORS of one of the oldest ferry services in Europe have been told to cease services or face the Crown's displeasure, writes Tim Burt.

Ferries linking Essex and Kent across the Thames have operated continuously since 1086. But lawyers acting for the Crown say the service must stop because it "is a breach of our client's rights".

The Crown Estate, which owns and purchases land and property on behalf of the Queen, has demanded an immediate suspension of crossings between

Tilbury and Gravesend (pictured above), operated by White Horse Ferries. White Horse has decided to defy the order and continue services for the 250,000 passengers who use the crossing each year. It said it purchased rights to the crossing last year when it bought the route from Sealink-Stena, the ferry operator.

Crown Estates said that route licence was non-transferable and should not have been sold. "They don't have a

licence as far as we're concerned," a spokesman said. The Crown says White Horse has the right to carry passengers in one direction only, from Gravesend to Tilbury, but not back again. River licences from Tilbury are issued at the discretion of the sovereign, who inherited them in the 15th century.

Mr Peter Lay, joint chief executive of White Horse, fears that the Crown Estate, which saw the value of its property fall by more than 12 per cent in 1990, is trying to extract a high price

for a new Tilbury licence. "Their motives are financial. They want to hold us to ransom," he said. Crown Estates declined to comment on the possible costs of a new licence but hoped talks could resolve the dispute before services are suspended.

A move by White Horse to pacify the Crown by carrying passengers free of charge from Tilbury to Gravesend were withdrawn yesterday after Mr Lay decided raising fares on journeys from Kent would not cover the shortfall.

Labour faces internal splits on Europe

The Opposition is divided over calls for a national referendum over Maastricht, writes Ivo Dawney

MR GERALD Kaufman, the opposition Labour party's outgoing spokesman on foreign affairs, is enjoying a combative swansong by turning his attention to the Maastricht treaty.

Last weekend, he challenged the government to spell out its plans for the future of European union.

He warned that Ireland's "yes" in its referendum last week would do nothing to solve the quandary on how to proceed without splitting the Conservative party.

"Unless and until a clear way through is shown for the Treaty, it will be improper for the government to ask Parliament to pass the Maastricht Bill," Mr Kaufman said.

His own party, however, is facing a potential split over

Britain's future in Europe. The Danish referendum result has left Labour quite as divided over the future of Maastricht as the government.

In the last 10 days, Mr Neil Kinnock, the outgoing leader, has declined the presidency of the confederation of socialist parties of the EC and hint that Labour just might support a referendum on Maastricht.

That mood is beginning to alarm Labour "Europeans" who fear the party is now in danger of sacrificing its hard-fought struggle for credibility on the continent for a tactical victory in Westminster.

Yet there are probably no

more than 25 anti-Europeans in the Parliamentary Labour Party. The real threat is now coming from a new pro-European faction, driven by the newly-reformed Tribune group.

They are arguing that the Danish referendum outcome offers an opportunity to re-open the treaty negotiations to address Labour's demands on issues such as democratic accountability of Community institutions and British accession to the social chapter.

Such arguments provoke despair among Labour Europeans who say any short term gain from defeating the government on ratification would be

lost in permanent damage to the party's cross-frontier relationships.

Mr Giles Radice, the Labour MP, said: "It is essential that Labour sticks to its strategic position as a pro-European party."

"It would be disastrous if we allowed short term tactical considerations to guide our decisions in the next few months."

Socialists in Brussels fear that Labour is again demonstrating its unreliability as a partner and a general lack of seriousness over the European project.

That view is strongly held by

Labour's 49 MEPs who are arguing strongly that the UK party should abstain when the Maastricht legislation returns to the Commons.

The European issue could pose a dilemma for Mr John Smith, the favourite to succeed Mr Kinnock as leader. He has endorsed criticism that Maastricht does not go far enough. But he has also stressed the need to work closely with Labour's European allies. His instincts will be to argue for another neutral abstention when the legislation comes to a vote.

Yet with Labour in its current, rebellious mood there is a danger that, just months after taking office, he could be faced with one of the party's biggest shows of indiscipline since the bad old days of the early 1990s.

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Wellcome launches £1m Aids programme

By GIVE COOKSON,
Science Editor

WELLCOME, the UK pharmaceutical group, yesterday launched a charitable programme called Positive Action to help meet the global challenge of HIV and Aids.

Start-up costs will be about £1m, but Mr James Cochrane, European operations director, said the company's commitment was open ended.

Sales of the company's best-selling Aids drug Retrovir (AZT) are expected to exceed £200m this year.

Positive Action consists of four main initiatives:

- Support for Aids education and care in the community.
 - Action to prevent HIV infection and care for Aids patients in developing countries.
 - Improved services for children affected by Aids.
 - Developing policies for the disease in the workplace.
- Wherever possible Wellcome will join existing organisations to promote Positive Action. For example, its partner in the developing countries initiative is the Population Council, based in New York, which has experience of community-based health work in Africa. "We are firmly committed to a response to HIV and Aids which goes beyond producing effective medicines," said Mr Cochrane.

The company concedes that its critics, who have attacked the company for making excessive profits from Aids, might see Positive Action as a public relations initiative. One executive insisted: "To the cynics I would say: Wait and see. Maybe we will convince you over time."

The Terence Higgins Trust, a UK Aids support group, welcomed the initiative. Mr Nick Partridge, chief executive, said the announcement "will go a long way to reversing the very severe criticism Wellcome has come up against in the past".

The company said the announcement is unconnected with next month's Wellcome share offer, expected to raise £2bn for the Wellcome Trust.

Wellcome results, Page 19

Business travellers shift from air to road and rail in recession

By Daniel Green

MOST British companies are encouraging employees to travel by road and rail rather than air in response to the recession, says a report published yesterday.

The amount companies spent on rail travel rose by two-thirds to £2bn in 1991 compared with 1989. Spending on air travel fell 21 per cent to \$4.5bn over the same period, according to an American Express report on travel and entertainment.

The fall in spending on air travel did not necessarily reflect a fall in passenger num-

bers. "People are also being encouraged to change to lower class seats," said Mr Jim Jamison, vice president of travel management services at American Express.

The effect of recession was also seen in a 14 per cent fall in spending on hotels. This was partly compensated for by a rise in spending on fuel, perhaps indicating that staff were encouraged to drive home after a day in the field, rather than spend the night in a hotel.

The total amount spent on travel and entertainment fell from £20bn in 1989 to £18bn last year. Some 37 per cent was incurred on overseas trips.

The fall was partly a result of declining employment, said Mr Donald Osborne, the author of the report. Those companies which have survived over the last two years saw spending rise by 4 per cent. Retail prices rose 14.2 per cent over the same period.

Business travel and entertainment accounted for 6.8 per cent of total business costs in 1991 and amounted to about £1,000 per employee.

Four out of five businesses expected spending to increase in line with, or faster than, revenues.

The report also said the number of women business

travellers had risen to 17 per cent of the total in 1991 from 11 per cent in 1989.

Mr Jamison said many hotels were now concentrating on providing more convenient facilities for women travellers as their numbers increased.

In spite of the sums spent, almost half the 407 companies questioned did not have a written travel policy. Furthermore, of those questioned 44 per cent said they had no arrangements for securing corporate discounts.

Nevertheless almost one third said they were not yet satisfied with their efforts to control this travel spending.

Britain in brief



War of words breaks out at Lloyd's

A war of words has broken out between rival groups of Lloyd's Names, the individuals whose assets support underwriting at the insurance market.

First, one group of 110 Names requisitioned an extraordinary general meeting in a bid to focus attention on the "disastrous state of Lloyd's regulation". The dissident Names are also calling for the council, the market's governing body, to be replaced and are pressing for a series of reforms to the market's regulation and governance.

Later in the day, 230 working Names - those who have jobs with agencies and brokers on the market - presented a separate petition, reaffirming their confidence in the market's governing Council.

The move comes two days ahead of an annual general meeting on Wednesday when the market will announce losses of £2bn for the 1989 year, the biggest deficit ever recorded by the market. It follows the controversial rejection by Lloyd's last week of a half-out plan to help the hardest hit Names pay their losses.

Calls intensify on Imro report

Calls for the government to publish the report by Imro, the investment management regulatory organisation, into the supervision of the Maxwell companies have intensified.

MPs campaigning on behalf of the Maxwell pensioners believe that the way the government is allowing the row over publishing the report to continue while extracts are selectively leaked jeopardises the work of the special unit which has been set up to recover pension fund assets from financial institutions.

Mr Frank Field, one of the MPs leading the campaign on

behalf of the pensioners, has warned the government that it risked accusations of a "cover up" if it continued to allow attention to focus on what might remain secret in the report, rather than the role of the banks and others.

Backing for maternity rights

Labour has challenged Mrs Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, to drop Britain's opposition to an initiative by the European Parliament on harmonising maternity leave in the EC.

At a Westminster news conference, Mr Tony Blair, the opposition employment spokesman, was joined by MEPs to press the case for every mother in the EC having 14 weeks paid leave, remunerated at 80 per cent of their regular salaries.

Pointing out that Denmark allows mothers a total of 28 weeks leave at 90 per cent of salary, Mr Blair said that the UK's regulations of six weeks leave were among the worst in the Community and were also hampered by strict eligibility criteria.

Hofesa to set up UK plant

Hofesa, the Spanish group, is to establish its first British plant to manufacture window blinds at Tipton, West Midlands. It is the second Spanish company in the last year to invest in the region: the first was Ficosa, the motor components group. Hofesa is investing £500,000 and, initially, will employ 23 people.

More pupils stay at school

Last year saw a dramatic rise in the number of sixteen year-olds staying on at school in England and Wales, according to the UK Careers Service.

The report shows that of the half million pupils who reached school leaving age last summer, 61 per cent - the highest proportion ever - remained in full-time education. In 1990 it was 53 per cent, and in 1989 48 per cent.

If youth training is included, 76 per cent of those eligible to leave school remained in

full-time education or training last year, compared with 70 per cent in 1989. For the first time in recent decades that puts England and Wales within reach of France and Germany, where the full-time staying-on rate is between 80 and 90 per cent - though many doubt the comparability of youth training, which accounted for 15 per cent of last year's school leavers, with continental training schemes.

Tribunals hear extra cases

The number of cases claiming equal pay for equal value being brought to industrial tribunals more than tripled last year compared with 1990, according to an analysis by Industrial Relations Services, the pay and conditions group.

Much of the increase was accounted for by about 600 cases brought by domestic staff against four Northern Ireland health boards claiming equal pay with porters. Almost 90 per cent of the applications involved just six employers.

State doctors on the beat

Doctors spend two or three hours a day walking around hospitals rather than treating patients, according to new research. A study of 10 state hospitals by Andersen Consulting, management consultants, showed that junior doctors walked six or seven miles during a typical shift.

Dr Nicholas Edwards, of Andersen Consulting, said: "Highly skilled hospital staff, like doctors and nurses, are having to spend time walking around hospitals rather than looking after patients."

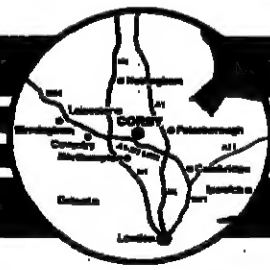
New Jaguars take to the road

Deliveries are beginning this week of the fastest and, at £350,000 each, the most expensive road-going Jaguar cars ever built. The XJ220 cars have been engineered and are being produced by JaguarSport, a 50-50 joint venture company set up in 1988 between Jaguar - now owned by Ford - and Mr Tom Walkinshaw's racing organisation to develop high-performance Jaguar models.

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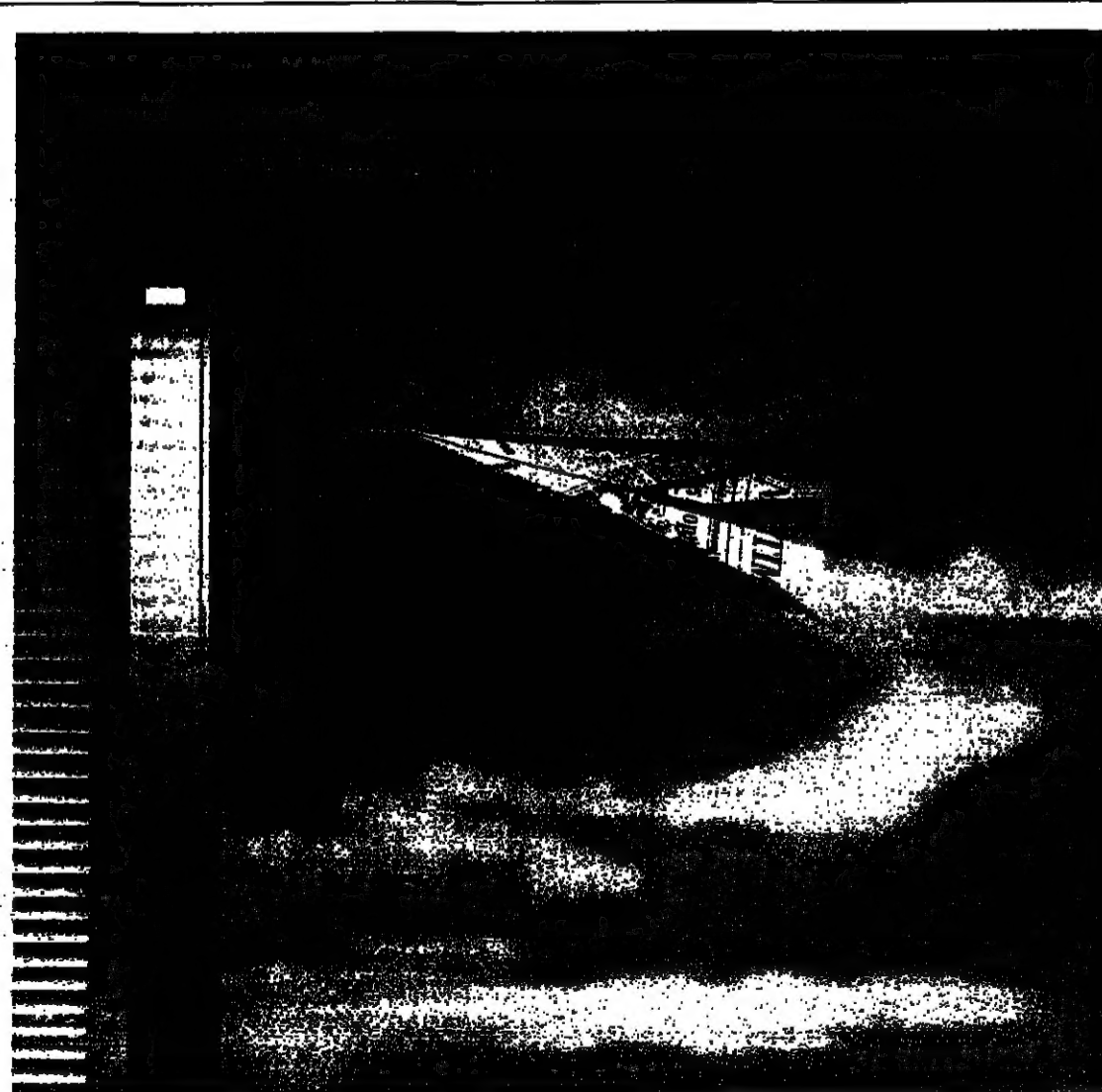
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MANAGEMENT: THE GROWING BUSINESS

In a Nutshell

How to keep it all in the family

An exchange programme which allows the next generation of a family company to gain experience working in another family firm is one of the services to be provided by the Stoy Centre for Family Business, to be launched later this month.

The centre, which has been set up by accountants Stoy Hayward, is intended to generate ideas, stimulate discussion and disseminate knowledge about all aspects of the family business. Family-controlled firms account for 75 per cent of all UK companies, Stoy calculates.

Other services to be provided include a forum to lobby for the interests of family businesses; help in finding non-executive directors; a newsletter, seminars and conferences.

Membership of the centre is open to companies where more than 50 per cent of the shares are owned by one family; a single family group effectively controls the business; or a significant proportion of the senior management is drawn from the same family.

Contact Moira Lewis, Stoy Centre for Family Business, 8 Baker Street, London W1M 10A. Tel 071 486 5888. Annual subscription £110 plus VAT.

Lessons in Customs and practice

UK companies will in future take more responsibility for managing the Customs' regulations which apply to exports and imports.

Historically, Customs has provided exporters and importers with close assistance but in future, it will monitor companies' own systems.

Help for businesses with the implications of self-regulation and with the setting-up of control systems will be provided at a one-day seminar on July 2 to be run by accountants Grant Thornton, Customs and Excise and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Contact Grant Thornton. Tel 071 383 5100. Fee £178.50 inc VAT.

A small west London company, G Ettinger, has spent 80 years establishing a name for itself as a designer and manufacturer of high quality leather goods and fashion accessories.

Until a year ago, growth was steady rather than spectacular but it has since taken off on the back of a licensing agreement with the All England Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, home of the Wimbledon championship. Ettinger's use of the Wimbledon logos - crossed tennis rackets and a stylised letter W, both in the club's distinctive purple and green colours - has given a significant boost to the company.

Sales of bags, belts and wallets with the Wimbledon logo are expected to account for up to £100,000 of Ettinger's £1.5m turnover this year, estimates Robert Ettinger, marketing director. The Wimbledon line is now on sale in two shops at the championship site, at upmarket outlets such as Harrods and in leather goods shops around the country. "We have opened up dozens of large new accounts," says Ettinger. "Having products with a famous name attached makes selling so much easier."

Ettinger acknowledges that although he initiated the link with Wimbledon, he was concerned that licensing would not be appropriate for a small company. He feared it would require enormous financial resources and an army of sales reps. In fact, small firms may be better placed to win licensing deals than large companies, says Tony Gadsby Peet, vice-president in charge of licensing at International Management Group (IMG), which arranges sporting promotions. "Bigger companies tend to have a well established reputation and most of their activity is designed to promote their own name," he comments.

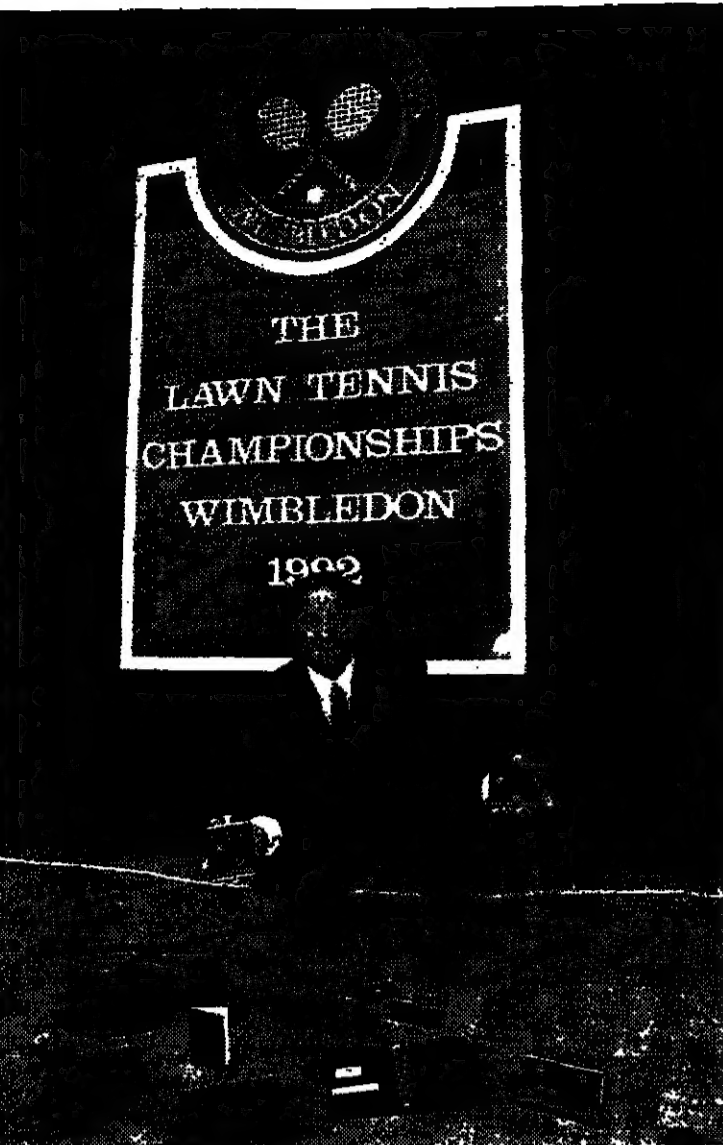
"A small company will pay more attention to detail and will devote more attention to a licence because it is worth more to it in terms of its overall business," adds Rob McCowan, marketing director for the All England Club.

The licensor will, however, be looking for a well-run small business which will not damage the "property" it wants to license. "We have to make sure the company is not so small that it is not financially viable," says McCowan. "It would depend on the product. If the company made clothing, you would expect a high level of sales and the company would have to make a significant investment."

"You want a company with an established reputation and established distribution networks," notes Gadsby Peet. There is no point licensing a brand name to a company which is too small to exploit the opportunity.

A licensing deal to use the name of a prestigious event like Wimbledon or a popular cartoon character can give a big boost to sales. Charles Batchelor reports

Anyone for tennis?



Robert Ettinger: 'A famous name makes selling so much easier'

Eros Products, a north London company, established itself as a distributor of plastic housewares and children's lunchboxes and drinking flasks before signing up its first Disney licence in November 1988. "We had a customer base among the multiple stores; a broad range of products; and a good position in the low to medium price range," says Joseph Young, financial director. Eros now has no fewer than 15

which do not meet its own requirements. It turned down approaches to license the Gazza name, because the former Tottenham footballer Paul Gascoigne would not attract a broad enough public. "We are not interested in short-run licences or characters who are too obscure," says Young.

Copyright Stationery, a Duxford-based company which makes 90 per cent of its £15m sales from folders, pencils and rockers bearing licensed characters, checks whether characters have been successful on other products and that they appeal to retailers.

Copyright discusses "properties" and market trends at regular meetings with other distributors of character merchandise (none of them in the stationery area), says Mike Redfern, managing director and joint founder.

"We also try to get some customer reaction," he adds. "We mock something up and ask Woolworths if they like it. The licensors hate you doing that but I would advise it."

Copyright is very dependent on its licensors but makes sure it has a wide spread of characters across its three main ranges: children, students and fashion.

Redfern says he makes sure that the characters he picks get good television exposure. He looks for guaranteed repeats as well as the initial 13-week run of a TV series. Gadsby Peet advises licensees to ensure that associated TV programmes are actually being made and are not just being discussed. A company which is looking for licensees can either approach a licensor direct or use a licence agent. The agents who handle characters or brands are a different breed to those who deal with technical product licences, notes Gadsby Peet.

When drawing up a contract there are four main areas to be considered:

DURATION
The typical contract is for between one and three years though one year contracts do not really allow the licensee to obtain the maximum benefit so they should negotiate for an option on renewal where possible. A company will not want to

commit itself to developing new products for a very short-term arrangement.

ROYALTIES

The level will depend on the products covered by the contract. Wimbledon normally agrees "single figure" royalties with its licensees because it is selling what it believes is a durable brand image and not a character which may only have a short shelf-life.

Royalties have risen over the past decade from a normal 5 to 6 per cent to around 10 per cent, says Gadsby Peet. But this is an average figure and low-margin items such as confectionery and food would carry a lower royalty than jewellery. Copyright spends nearly £1.5m a year on royalties on turnover of £15m, says Redfern.

MINIMUM FEES

Licensees will usually set a minimum royalty figure to ensure that the licensee works hard to exploit the character or the brand. A licensee who agrees to a 10 per cent royalty with a minimum fee of £5,000 must expect to sell at least £50,000 worth of goods to cover his royalty payment.

TERRITORY

Licensees would normally expect to have exclusive rights for a particular character or name and an agreed range of products in a set geographical area. Ettinger started with European rights and recently negotiated the right to sell to duty-free shops around the world except for Japan. US licensors are normally only interested in selling Europe-wide rights, rather than single-country territories.

Signing the rights to a character or brand is only the start of the relationship, the experts warn. The characters and the products must be kept "fresh". Eros arranges for regular redesigns of the illustrations which appear on its lunchboxes and flasks (the licensor must approve the drawings and the colours used) and constantly improves on the products themselves.

But if the relationship is properly managed, it can bring many benefits to the licensee. As well as increased sales, the branded products often carry higher margins than their unbranded rivals. A successful licence can also improve the licensee's negotiating power with suppliers or with customers.

One potential customer offered Eros unattractive credit terms when it was initially approached. After several months the company came back with an improved offer when it saw how well Eros's products were selling through rival outlets.

Banishing hot air from the office

The British have a traditional affection for warm beer and muggy offices but just as cooled lagers have frozen out many traditional ales, so more and more businesses are turning to air conditioning, writes Charles Batchelor.

This can make sense even in Britain's unpredictable climate because the sun's rays on large city centre offices cause them to store heat and can push internal temperatures up to 10 degrees higher than those outside.

Often the only affordable way to obtain the effects of air conditioning in many older and smaller offices is to install a mobile air conditioner. What to Buy for Business lists 18 suppliers and 44 different machines in a review of air conditioners in its June edition.

A mobile air conditioner will not achieve the same uniform degree of coolness as a built-in system and many of the benefits will be lost if a window has to be opened to allow the exhaust hose to vent into the open air. But they can be used as spot coolers by one or two desks.

Users will face a choice between water cooled air conditioners, which require topping up and more elaborate maintenance, or the air cooled variety which have recently become more popular. What to Buy selects three best buys ranging in price from £700 to £1,495 and six good value models from £399 to £1,325. However, it estimates that buyers should be able to negotiate a 20 per cent discount on one-off purchases and suggests renting for short-term use. A week's rent usually works out at one-tenth of the purchase price.

The unpredictability of the British weather means it is difficult to predict when you may need to rent and renting or buying in the middle of a heatwave will make it difficult to obtain the best deal.

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If you are considering a sale and your turnover exceeds £0.5m then we would like to meet you. Our charges are based largely on results, so you have little to lose. For a confidential discussion without commitment please contact Richard Coen, Corporate Finance Partner at Blackstone House, Barbican House, 26-34 Old Street, London EC1Y 9HL. Telephone: 071 250 3300.

Authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to conduct investment business.

TAX LOSS COMPANIES REQUIRED

With either continuity of trade or wholesale/retail/consumer goods or property trading losses of £100,000 to £5,000,000

Tel 071-229 4846

ELECTRONICS BUSINESS WANTED

We are looking to add to our product range by acquiring a business or product line in the field of industrial electronics. Turnover must be at least £500K and it must be possible to demonstrate profitability.

Funding of £2m could be made available for the right opportunity.

Please write to Shiretree Systems Limited, 45 Bristol Road, Stonehouse, GL10 3RD, reference PMS

COMPANY MERGER WANTED

Finally controlled (see item) wishes to discuss merger or takeover with "FULLY LISTED PUBLIC COMPANY" in the "BUILDING SERVICES" or "CONSTRUCTION SECTOR".

OUR COMPANY BRIEF DETAILS AS FOLLOWS:
Current Turnover - £8 million. Net Assets (see Cash) in excess of 4 million.
Family will accept majority of purchase price in shares and participation in enlarged group (or control) by way of shareholding.

Please send full details to: Box A399, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL.

PUBLIC COMPANY

Our client is a private investor with substantial funds to invest. He would like to buy a controlling interest in a quoted vehicle. Enquiries will be treated in the strictest confidence to: Mr N Wilkinson, Moore Rowland Chartered Accountants, Montague House, 44 Montague Street, London EC3R 7DF. Tel: 0804 641718

WANTED.

Decorative Stamping, Medallion and Badge Manufacturers.

Write to Box A586, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL.

Businesses Wanted

We are an expanding Group of private companies seeking to broaden our field of operations by acquisition. Most businesses, except high tech, and computing will be considered. Write in first instance providing full details to: Box A4064 Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL.

**Touche
Ross****Development Site
Carmarthen, South Wales**

The Joint Receivers, Ralph S. Preece and John Wilson, offer for sale a 7 acre development site in Carmarthen, Dyfed, South Wales.

Main features are:

- 7 acre site.
- Prominent position close to A48 and A40.
- Site suitable for a variety of uses including residential, light industrial, leisure and retail development.
- Site has an existing use as a scrap yard.

For further information, please contact the sole agents for the site:
Tim Davies of Weatherall, Green & Smith, 62 Queen Square, Bristol BS1 4JZ.
Tel: 0272 255918. Fax: 0272 255924.

10-12 East Parade, Leeds LS1 2AJ.

Tel: 0532 439021. Fax: 0532 448942.

Authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

**Weatherall
Green & Smith****PLASTIC INJECTION MOULDER****European Plastic Moulders
Limited**

The Joint Administrative Receivers offer for sale the business and assets of this substantial and well established plastic injection moulder, based in Sporthill, Birmingham.

Principal features of the business include:

- customer base - blue chip automotive component manufacturers.
- range of modern and well maintained injection moulding machines with a capacity of 20 to 550 tonnes.
- turnover £5 million per annum.
- 53,000 sq ft freehold factory with offices of 13,000 sq ft.

For further information and sales particulars please contact Michael Horrocks or Ian N. Cornishers of Cork Gully, 43 Temple Row, Birmingham B2 5JT. Telephone: 021 238 9986. Fax: 021 200 4040.

Cork Gully is authorised in the name of Chartered & Licensed by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

Cork Gully**QUOIN HOMES LIMITED
(IN ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVERSHIP)**

The Joint Administrative Receivers of Quoin Homes Limited (a subsidiary of Turrit Corporation Plc) offer for sale a retirement development in Maidenhead comprising 21 one and two bedroom units.

Facilities include:

- * 24 hour warden service.
- * Economy 7 heating.
- * Residents' lounge and kitchen.
- * Pleasant gardens and ample parking.
- * Security windows and doors.

For a prospectus or further information please contact:

David Lovett or Ian Best,
Arthur Andersen,
1 Victoria Square,
Birmingham B1 1BD.
Tel: 021-233 2101
Fax: 021-643 7647

Arthur Andersen is authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

**ARTHUR
ANDERSEN****PORTUGAL**

SINTRA AREA, CLOSE TO LISBON
SUPERB TOURIST CLASS HOTEL
WITH GOOD TRADING HISTORY

FOR SALE

- Excellent Location
- Close to Beaches
- 90 Ensuite Bedrooms
- Restaurant & Bar
- Lounges
- Conference Room

EXTENSIVE GARDENS WITH LARGE SWIMMING POOL AND OTHER AMENITIES
Further land available

For further information: Apply Sole Agents
Ref: MWS

HEALEY & BAKER

071 629 9292

Smith & Williamson

Corporate Recovery • Liquidation Support • Corporate Finance • Taxation • Banking Investigations • Insurance Management • Pensions & Life Assurance • Accounting • Auditing

The Joint Administrative Receivers offer for sale the business and assets of

INTEK EUROPE LIMITED

The company based in Hove, Sussex, comprises:

- ★ Provision of high quality work-based learning modules in:
 - Technical Skills (electrical, electro-mechanical, electronics) - BTEC accredited
 - Fine Line Management - a powerful management tool using the principles of total quality management (Certificate of Management at NVQ Level 4)
 - Customised modules in either or both of the above areas.
- ★ Nationwide blue-chip customer list.
- ★ Experienced, innovative staff with the ability to sell, service and continuously update the Company's products.
- ★ Turnover in 1991 £2.6m.

For details, contact Iain Allan or Mike Stevenson on 071-637 5377 at the offices of Smith & Williamson, No. 1 Riding House Street, London W1A 3AS. Fax: 071-323 5683.

Smith & Williamson
Chartered Accountants
Registered to carry on audit work and
authorised to carry on investment
business by the Institute of Chartered
Accountants in England and Wales

Smith & Williamson Securities
Authorised Institution under
Banking Act 1987.
Member of IMRO. Member of the
British Merchant Banking
and Securities House Association

**KENSINGTON, SW7
Hotel**

70 bedroom 3 Star Hotel
All ensuite rooms
32 year lease - rent £375,000
Quick sale desired hence:

Offers invited in excess of £1
Ref. 20/137

For further information contact:
Gerard Nolan, London Hotels Department
on 071 486 4231

CHRISTIE & CO**For Sale
Pressure Vessel Manufacturing**

An excellent opportunity to acquire a well established, highly motivated team producing pressure vessels with BS 5750 Certification and ASME 'U' Stamp. Based in the North West it holds a commanding confluence site with superb amenities. Turnover to March '92 £1.2m. Profitable. All proposals will be considered.

Details: A. Anthony Associates, Roskill, Lydiate, Merseyside L31 4JF
Tel: 051-526 4008. Fax: 051-526 1673

A. ANTHONY ASSOCIATES**FOR SALE - JOINERY COMPANY**

Complete Joinery Works with additional planning consents in grant assisted area close to the port of Falmouth, Cornwall. Modern 12K sq. ft. Factory & Plant - £1M Turnover - £0.5M Tax Loss - Detailed consent for further 20K sq. ft. Details from: Alan Slater.

Tel: (0872) 863256 Fax: (0326) 377066

**INTERNATIONAL
DEFENCE NEWSLETTER**
Established English-language newsletter
with worldwide subscriber base, full
editorial network and unrivalled reputation
- offered for sale, T/O £50,000
Principles only sale
Box A4075 Financial Times,
One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

**FOR SALE
TRAVEL AGENCY**
Prime position in major Essex
town. Est. 20 years. GP £96K.
Capable of considered expansion.
Owner retiring. Price £85,000.
Write to Box A4077, Financial Times, One
Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

**Cowes Marine Services Ltd.
Mustang Marine Ltd.**

The Joint Administrative Receivers offer for sale the business and assets of the above companies, which specialise in boat repair and manufacture, based at Cowes, Isle of Wight.

Principal features include:

- Prime location on the Medina river.
- Long leasehold on a 2.7 acre site including hard standing.
- 260 ft. river frontage with 2 slipways.
- Largest boat operating on the island.
- 25,000 sq ft of buildings and workshops.

For further information contact the Joint Administrative Receiver, John Dare, KPMG Peat Marwick, Dukes Keep, Marsh Lane, Southampton SO1 1EX. Tel: 0703 831465. Fax: 0703 225457.

KPMG Corporate Recovery**Humberts Leisure****Windmill Hill Place
Tennis and Golf Resort**

A superb opportunity to acquire an internationally renowned residential tennis resort and golf academy

- 40 bedrooms guest complex including restaurant and licensed poolside bar
- 16 court tennis complex including 4 championship grass tennis courts, 4 indoor velour courts, 4 synthetic outdoor courts, 2 European clay courts
- Academy teaching course including 12 indoor and 12 outdoor bays
- Planning consent for tennis and golf village

For sale as a going concern

Also available as a joint venture

071-629 6700

25 GROSVENOR STREET - LONDON W1N 9ET

**WILLIAM
HILLARY****CORNWALL****EXISTING
18-HOLE GOLF COURSE**

and land with
PLANNING CONSENT FOR 20 HOUSES
144 ACRES - FREEHOLD - FOR SALE

Colour brochure from:
WILLIAM HILLARY & COMPANY
47 HIGH STREET, SAUNDERSVILLE SA1 2DP
Tel: 0722 327101 Fax: 0722 411803

LEISURE AND HOTELS**BAYSWATER
HOTEL FOR SALE**

- Excellent Location
- 20 Bedrooms
- All Ensuite Facilities

Ref: TJB

HEALEY & BAKER

071 629 9292

**RADIO & TELEVISION
MONITORING COMPANY FOR
SALE**

Established * Profitable * City Based
Price £400,000

Principals only to Box A4074, Financial Times,
One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

**FOR SALE
PRINTING EQUIPMENT COMPANY**

Well established, advanced equipment manufacturers for the worldwide Printing Industry wishes to pursue merger or sale. New Products and market opportunities exceed current resources.

Box A4083, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

**WANTED
Mechanical/Electrical/
Telecoms Contractors**

Turnover: £5m - £40m

Our client an expanding listed group seeks to grow by acquiring:

- a UK based business.
- must be trading profitably.
- will trade as an autonomous business retaining its brand name.
- continuity of management is essential.

Vendors and their advisors should telephone either Marcus Mofr or Ian Smith on 071-388 4242 in absolute confidence. Your identity will not be revealed to our client without your permission.

LIVINGSTONE FISHER

The Acquisition & Disposal Specialists
A Member of FIMBFA

TASTE APPEAL (FOODS) LTD

The Joint Administrative Receivers, J B Stephens AGA and P S Dunn FCA of Latham Crossley & Davis offer for sale the Business and Assets of Taste Appeal (Foods) Ltd.

- Fully operational produce distribution plant with purpose built preparation rooms
- Established Local and Health Authority customer base
- Skilled and loyal workforce
- Annual turnover approx £893K

In the first instance, please contact the Joint Administrative Receivers 071-407 8454 or 5 Marco at Edward Symmons & Partners 071-407 8454.

**EDWARD SYMONS
& PARTNERS**

2 Southwark Street, London Bridge, London SE1 1RQ
Fax: 071-407 8423
LONDON • MANCHESTER • LIVERPOOL • BIRMINGHAM • SOUTHAMPTON

Tel: 071-407 8454

18m Dollar Business for Sale

1 year old Prefer Latin, Central or South American ownership New Refrigerated and Concrete facility. State of the Art design and utilisation. Rail siding, 22 truck docks, major U.S. city 1/4 million sq.ft. established customer base.

Purchase out of bankruptcy for 2m, discounted mortgage.
Contact: Mr Solis

P.O. Box 2023 Houston, TX, USA 77530-2023

**Exclusive Essex Private
Residential Care Home**

Registered for 24 with planning consent to increase to 43.

Free income 1991 £335,927.

Home run under management.

Fees from £200 to £400 per week.

Set in grounds of 10 acres incorporating ornamental lake, meadow, paddock, orchard as well as a two bed cottage.

Offers in the region of £1.1 million, freehold.

Ref: 1473795

For further information contact: David Becham, Ipswich Office on 0473 256588

CHRISTIE & CO**FOR SALE
COMMERCIAL AND RETAIL
STATIONERY AND OFFICE
PRODUCTS BUSINESS**

Central London showroom, offices and warehouse 2600 sq ft at £12000 p.a.

Established business includes greetings cards, general office stationery, telephones, answering machines, fax etc.

Kiosk price plus fixtures and stock.

For your interest to:

071-928 0836

or write to Box A4084, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

**FOR SALE - SECURITY
INSTALLATION
COMPANY**

Has RAD in final stages for infra-red link system.

1992/93 F.Y. projected T/O £600K.

Tel: 0899 270990

**FOR SALE
Profitable Plant/Service
Company**

Based in Great Yarmouth, supplying both onshore/offshore industries.

Write to Box A4081, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

FOR SALE

Profitable specialist business in the family of publications. Specialist CC selling for 20 years. Reader database 2,000.

Excellent customer potential.

Partnership only sale to Box A4079, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Box A4083, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Box A4083, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

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Box A4083, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL



For further information please contact:
Alan Becham
BPC Corporate Finance Limited
84 Grosvenor Street, London W1K 2DP
Telephone 071-499-2500
Fax: 071-429-9944

**COMMERCIAL SERVICES
GROUP
CONTRACT
CLEANING/MAINTENANCE**

Well established & profitable

T/O £10 Million Plus

Would suit quoted P.L.C.

Shares or cash considered.

Principals should write to:

Box A4088, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

**CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY FOR SALE**

Successful, well established Building and Civil Engineering Co. for sale. Midlands and Wales location. £3 million turnover.

Extensive portfolio of clients and select list of local authorities.

Please write in confidence to: Box A4085, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

**Dried Food Packaging
Company**

Established Supplier To Major Chains. Modern Hi-Tech Automated Plant. Experienced Ongoing Management. Ideal Opportunity For Company Who Can Bring Additional Sales And Supporting Finance.

Write to Box A4089, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

FOR SALE

London based commercial business. Lighting manufacturer (3m t/o) with Blue Chip client list and potential, seeks another company interested in strategic purchase/merger.

Write to Box A4077, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Box A4083, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Box A4083, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

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Box A4083, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

**ESTABLISHED
MANUFACTURERS OF
MEASURING MACHINES**

The Administrative Receivers offer for sale the business and assets of W A Metrology Limited, manufacturers of high technology capital inspection machines.

- Annual turnover approximately £1.4 million.
- Committed, skilled workforce.
- Blue chip customer base.
- Large market share.
- Freehold property - Nottingham based.
- Order book £500,000 plus.

For further information please contact:

Dip Dutton
BDO Binder Hamlyn,
206 Derby Road,
Nottingham, NG7 1NQ
Telephone 0662 418312
Fax: 0662 418393

**BDO
BINDER
HAMLYN**

Chartered Accountants
Authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

**TIMBER COMPONENT
MANUFACTURER IMPORTER
AND SAW MILLER**

B. J. WARD & P. J. LONG
the Administrative Receivers offer for sale the business and assets of
WYCHWOOD TIMBER COMPANY LIMITED

- Freehold premises situated near Coventry, including a production saw mill and with planning permission to upgrade the existing site.
- Healthy order book.
- Established reputation for achieving quality and customer service.
- Skilled key members of staff.
- Turnover exceeding £1.5 million.

For details, please contact:
Bary Ward or Steve Watson
Pannell Kerr Forster
Virginia House, The Batts
Worcester, WR1 3PA
Tel: 0905 610510
Fax: 0905 29006

**PANNELL
KERR
FORSTER**

Chartered Accountants

**Dairy Produce
Wholesaler/Distributor
Mill Farm Foods
(In Receivership)
Cardiff**

- Freehold property
- Annual turnover £3.0 million
- Licensed local distributor for national branded products
- Long established business

For further details contact the Joint Administrative Receiver:
David Thomas
Grant Thornton, 11-13 Penhill Road, Cardiff CF1 9UP
Tel: 0222 235591 Fax: 0222 383803

Grant Thornton

Bailiffscourt Hotel and Restaurant

The Joint Administrative Receivers, Peter Copp and Ray Hocking of Stoy Hayward offer for sale the above property located in Climping, West Sussex, as a going concern.

- ◆ 20 Letting Bedrooms
- ◆ Restaurant Seating 50
- ◆ 2 Conference Rooms
- ◆ Bar & Residential Lounge
- ◆ Swimming pool & tennis courts
- ◆ Set in 23 acres of grounds
- ◆ Current turnover approx. £12,000 per week

Humberts
LEISURE

For further details please contact Jeremy Crawford of the receivers agents Humberts Leisure, 25 Grosvenor Street, London W1X 9FE. Tel: 071-629 6700.

STOY HAYWARD

Accountants and Business Advisers A member of Horwath International
Authorized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business
8 Baker Street, London W1M 1DA. Tel: 071-486 5888. Fax: 071-935 3944

HEALTH AND LEISURE COMPLEX

Profiles Sports & Leisure Limited

The Joint Administrative Receivers, Christopher J Barlow FCA and Nigel J Vought FCA offer for sale as a going concern the business and assets of this Sports and Leisure company which operates in the Opreighton, Kent area.

Principal features of the business include:

- 122 years unexpired lease
- approximately £1.0 million turnover
- all shops with lifts and floodlighting
- leisure centre with squash and tennis courts, swimming pool, sauna, gymnasium, etc., bar/club and dining salon, snooker room, restaurants and licensed bars

For further details please contact Jim Bradley or Jack Ferguson of Cork Gully, Shelly House, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7DQ. Telephone 071-608 7700. Fax 071-608 9857.

Cork Gully is authorized in the name of Corpora & Lybrand by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

Cork Gully

PLASTIC INJECTION MOULDING COMPANY FOR SALE

High precision plastic moulders, well established, modern plant, good technical expertise, with well known customer list. For sale due to the family wishing to retire.

For further details write to Box A4072, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

FOR SALE Independent Software House

BS 5750 Registered
T/O 1991 c. £500k
Please write to Box No. A4076, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Touche Ross

Baillie Longstaff Limited and subsidiaries (In Administration)

The Joint Administrators, D. L. Morgan and N. R. Lyle, offer for sale the business of Baillie Longstaff.

Baillie Longstaff Limited

- Insurance intermediary for household and motor insurance, and extended warranties on electrical household appliances.
- Client base includes agreements with mail order companies to provide cover for their clients.
- Turnover in 1991 £1,040,000.

GIS (UK) Limited

- Insurance intermediary for household and motor insurance.
- Clients consist of customers of the mail order company Grattan PLC.
- Turnover in 1991 £420,000.

LBGSU (I) Limited

- Insurance intermediary for household and motor insurance.
- Sole client is Lloyds Bank Group Staff Union for the last 10 years.
- Turnover in 1991 £220,000.

For further information please contact Andrew Brannon or Ann Quartermain at the address below.

PO Box 810, Friary Court, 65 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2NP. Tel: 071 936 3000. Fax: 071 480 6958.

Authorized by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

STEEL FABRICATION COMPANY

Long established South Coast company occupying its own freehold premises. Current turnover £2.5M with growth potential for £4M plus. PLC client base with forward order book. Company holding offices of high interest value and excellent but well placed to take full advantage of recovery in economy. Repairs in confidence to Box A4068, Financial Times, One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Appear in the Financial Times on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. For further information or to advertise in this section please contact
Marian Miles on 071 673 3308

FINANCIAL TIMES
(LONDON & BIRMINGHAM)

LEGAL NOTICES

Advertisement of creditors' meeting under Section 99(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, of the company No. 1600488 Registered in England and Wales.

TIGER LIMITED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 99(2) of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Orchard House, 10 Albion Place, Maidstone, Kent ME14 3QZ on 2 July 1992 at 11.00 am for the purpose of having before it a copy of the report prepared by the Administrative Receiver under Section 98 of the said Act. The meeting may, if it thinks fit, establish a committee to supervise the business conducted on behalf of the creditors by or under the Act. Creditors are entitled to vote if (a) they have delivered to us at the address above above no later than 1 July 1992, written details of the debt they claim to be due to them from the company and the claim has been duly established under the provisions of Rule 5.11 of the Insolvency Rules 1986; and (b) they have been lodged with us any security which the creditor claims to be held on his or her behalf. Please note that the original copy by or on behalf of the creditor must be lodged at the address mentioned, photocopies (including faxed copies) cannot be used. Signed N.J. Vought Joint Administrative Receiver. Dated 17 June 1992.

ATLANTIC MEDICAL HOLDINGS LIMITED (In Administration)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to Section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at Cork Gully, Shelly House, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7DQ on Tuesday 30 June 1992 at 3.00 pm for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Affairs showing particulars of the company's assets, debts and liabilities and to nominate a person to be Liquidator and, if thought fit, to appoint a Liquidation Committee, pursuant to Sections 99, 100 and 101. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge a proof of debt before the meeting and, unless they surrender their security, must also lodge a copy of their security with the Liquidator. A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at Shelly House, 3 Noble Street, London EC2V 7DQ on Friday 26 June 1992 and Monday 29 June 1992 between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. Signed L.D.B. Bond Joint Administrator. Dated 16 June 1992.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 99 of the Insolvency Act 1986 that a meeting of creditors will be held at The Grange, Station Road, Crawley on 26th June 1992 at 10.30 am for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Affairs of the company. Creditors wishing to vote at the meeting must lodge a proof of debt before the meeting and, unless they surrender their security, must also lodge a copy of their security with the Liquidator. A list of names and addresses of the company's creditors will be available for inspection, free of charge, at The Grange, Station Road, Crawley on 22nd June and 23rd June 1992 between the hours of 10.00 am and 4.00 pm. Signed L.D.B. Bond Joint Administrator. Dated 17 June 1992.

ART GALLERIES

MARTYN GREGORY

Paintings of the China Coast 1750-1850. Until 5 July. 34 Bury St. St. James's London SW1. Tel: 071 839 3731

COMPANY NOTICES

GENERAL MOTORS CORPORATION

Further to the DIVIDEND DECLARATION OF 22nd May, 1992 NOTICE is now given that the following distribution will become payable on or after 16th June, 1992 against presentation to the Depository (as below) of Claim Forms listing Bearer Depository Receipts.

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| GROSS DISTRIBUTION | 2.00 CENTS |
| LESS 15% | |
| US WITHHOLDING TAX | 0.3000 CENTS |
| | 1.7000 CENTS PER UNIT |
| CONVERTED 1.8585 | 0.9147 PENCE PER UNIT |

Barclays Bank PLC
Stock Exchange Services Department
168 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3HP

CONTRACTS & TENDERS



Treuhandanstalt

(The government agency privatising eastern Germany property)

Tender for the sale of INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES

by Treuhandanstalt Chemnitz Branch in the south of Saxony/Germany

Company-number, name, location (in brackets: main area of expertise / present number of employees)

Construction/Building Material

- (CH-1) Basenhof Ausbau GmbH O-9633 Neukirchen (Painting, floor laying, dry insulation/14)
- (CH-2) Chemnitz Baustoff- und Fertigteile GmbH O-9032 Chemnitz (Building materials, pre-fabricated concrete slabs, steel parts, pre-fabricated houses/1400)
- (CH-3) Erzgebirgische Bau GmbH Annaberg O-9300 Annaberg-Buchholz (Building construction and civil engineering/135)
- (CH-4) Technische Gebäudesanierung Annaberg GmbH O-9300 Annaberg-Buchholz (Heating and sanitation equipment/86)

Chemicals

- (CH-5) Fettchemie GmbH (Plant Mohndorf) O-9010 Chemnitz (Chemical products for the textile, leather and paper industries, phosphoric acids/85)
- (CH-6) SAXONIA Schmiertechnik GmbH O-9430 Schwarzenberg (Lubricants, oils and greases/180)
- (CH-7) Werdau-Chemie GmbH O-9620 Werdau (Liquid spinning materials, cosmetics/16)
- (CH-8) Elektro-Feldmechanik GmbH Mittweida O-9250 Mittweida (Control units for TV-tubes, inductive components/275)
- (CH-9) Plastikverarbeitung Freiberg GmbH O-9200 Freiberg (Plastic products for electrical industry/29)

Wood Furniture

- (CH-10) Bemeta Metallmöbel GmbH O-9054 Chemnitz (Metal office chairs/131)
- (CH-11) BOX-möbel GmbH O-9438 Johannisgeroestadt (Furniture for young people, wardrobes, audio/TV furniture/100)

(CH-12) Obermaier Möbel GmbH

O-9330 Obermaier (Hotel room furnishings, interior fittings/65)

(CH-13) rational Küchenmöbel

Programme GmbH O-9394 Eppendorf (Kitchen furniture/348)

(CH-14) Sägewerk und Sägewerkstechnik

GmbH O-9417 Zwickau (Timber, planed materials/31)

Mechanical/Agricultural engineering

(CH-15) Anlagenbau GmbH Penig O-9294 Penig (Structural steel engineering, maintenance, assembly/21)

(CH-16) Anlagenbau und Maschinen-Service

GmbH (AMS GmbH) O-9633 Neukirchen (Agricultural engineering, servicing/47)

(CH-17) Chemnitz Spezialmaschinenfabrik GmbH

O-9002 Chemnitz (Meat processing machines/67)

(CH-18) Eisenwerk Eria GmbH

O-9436 Eria (Gray iron castings, job casting/247)

(CH-19) Landtechnik- und Stahlbauzentrum

Rechtitz GmbH O-9251 Naundorf (Container, agricultural engineering, structural steel engineering/47)

(CH-20) Sächsische Aluminium- und

Metallwarenfabrik Glauchau GmbH O-9610 Glauchau (Galvanizing, metal working/65)

(CH-21) Vorrichtungsbau Hohenstein GmbH

O-9270 Hohenstein-Ernstthal (Special tools/special machinery, clamping tools/288)

Shoes/Leather

(CH-22) Heimschuh GmbH Zwickau O-9670 Zwickau (Ladies' slippers/30)

(CH-23) Krankenschuh GmbH

O-9394 Eppendorf (Ladies' footwear/180)

(CH-24) Sattler- und Lederwaren GmbH

Siebenbrunn O-9651 Siebenbrunn (Car seat covers, parts for car seats/87)

Textiles

(CH-25) Bäcker + Ulrich Tuchfabrik GmbH O-9620 Werdau (Worsted yarn fabrics, uniform cloth/150)

(CH-26) Camping-Text GmbH

O-9200 Freiberg (Camping tents/56)

(CH-27) Color & Black Strickwaren GmbH

O-9135 Buchholz (Ladies' knitwear, jackets and jumpers/26)

(CH-28) Elegante Strickmoden GmbH

O-9275 Lichtersdorf (Ladies' knitwear, jackets and jumpers/26)

(CH-29) Elfeldter Wäschefabrik GmbH I.A.

O-9703 Elfeld (Ladies' outer wear, night wear/35)

(CH-30) FERUS Feinstrickware GmbH

O-9630 Grimschütz (Jersey undergarments and night wear/230)

(CH-31) Goldspitze GmbH

O-9701 Reumtengrün (Home textiles/48)

(CH-32) Kinderbekleidung Zwickau GmbH

O-9570 Zwickau (Children's wear/24)

(CH-33) Lunzenauer Mützen GmbH

O-9203 Lunzenau (Men's and boys' caps, uniform caps/51)

(CH-34) Mittelbacher Textilfabrik GmbH

O-9126 Mittelbach (T-shirts, underwear/31)

(CH-35) Modische GmbH

O-9103 Limbach-Oberhain (Ladies' underwear/60)

(CH-36) Plauerer Spitzen und

Stichereien GmbH O-9900 Plauen (Lace and embroidery/75)

(CH-37) Seiden- und Garveredelung GmbH

O-9317 Sehma (Textured yarns and twists/230)

(CH-38) Textilwerk Gornau GmbH

O-9363 Gornau (Jersey undergarments/43)

(CH-39) Textilwerke Flöha GmbH

O-9380 Flöha (Texturizing and dyeing of yarns/368)

(CH-40) Vogellandmoden GmbH

O-9700 Auerbach (Ladies' outer wear/150)

(CH-41) Wäschmoden GmbH Obernitz

O-9519 Obernitz (Liners, corsets/50)

Others

(CH-42) Chemnitz Agro-Markt GmbH O-9055 Chemnitz (Grain trading/117)

(CH-43) Chemnitz Werbe- und

Verlags GmbH O-9048 Chemnitz (Exterior advertising, trade fair construction/27)

(CH-44) Erholungsgebiet Greifenstein

Graßbachsauerhain GmbH O-9373 Ehrenfriedersdorf (Camp sites, lake, other tourist facilities/14)

(CH-45) Erzgebirgische Fleisch- und

Wurstwaren GmbH O-9300 Annaberg-Buchholz (Meat and sausages/141)

(CH-46) Hydrex GmbH

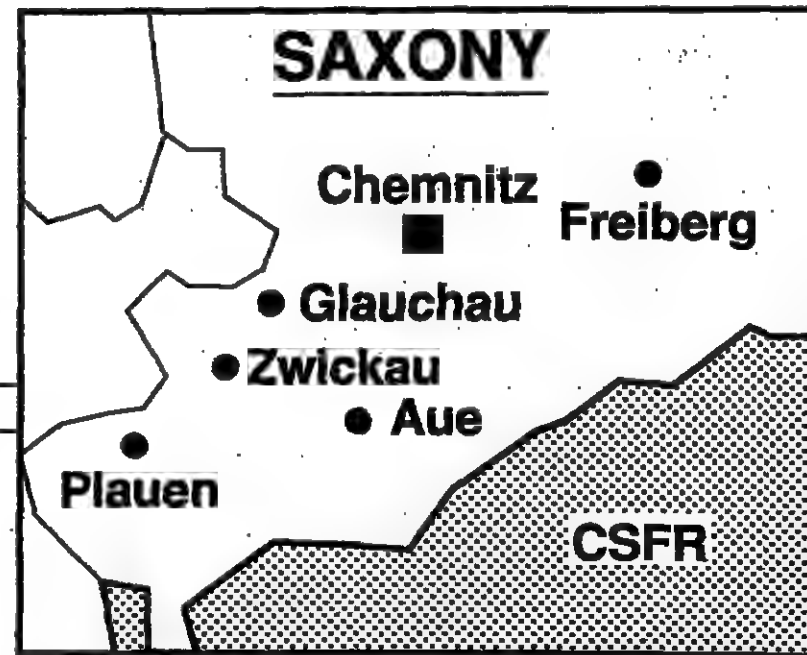
O-9900 Plauen (Hydraulic presses/80)

(CH-47) Landhandel Obererzgebirge GmbH

O-9300 Annaberg-Buchholz (Grain trading, building material warehouses/32)

(CH-48) SPIKA GmbH

O-9022 Chemnitz (Party games/36)



Tender conditions

1. In accordance with its legal mandate, the Treuhandanstalt Chemnitz Branch intends to sell the aforementioned companies by means of a tender. All offered companies are in the legal form of a limited liability company (GmbH). They are all located in the region around the city of Chemnitz. Bids must be for the total share capital of the company.
2. Anyone is entitled to bid.
3. In deciding among the bids, the Treuhandanstalt will take into consideration, among other things, the bid price, the business plan submitted, promises to maintain or create jobs, and pledges to invest, each of which will be considered part of the bid.
4. Interested parties can obtain further information without charge from the Tender Office Chemnitz Branch. The Treuhandanstalt is not responsible for the accuracy and completeness of this information. Prospective bidders will receive written authorization from the Tender Office Chemnitz Branch to visit the companies on the basis of which additional information will then be provided by company management.
5. Bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope marked only with the name of the company for which the bid is submitted.
6. Bids must be received at the Treuhandanstalt Chemnitz Branch, no later than 2 p.m. (local time), on August 11, 1992 (the "closing date"). They will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of a notary public. Bids must be in Deutsche Mark and shall remain valid for ninety (90) days after the closing date.
7. Bids must be accompanied by a bond of five (5) percent of the bid value in the form of an irrevocable bank guarantee valid for ninety (90) days after the closing date. The bid bond will be forfeited if the bidder either fails to hold its bid open during the required period or refuses to sign a contract in accordance with its bid.
8. The Treuhandanstalt will decide on the bids within ninety (90) days after the closing date. The Treuhandanstalt is not bound to accept any bid and may accept a bid other than the highest.
9. To the extent that a previous owner has submitted a claim seeking return (in whole or in part) of a company, a sale will require either the approval of the claimant or a decision in accordance with applicable law, section 3a VennG and/or section 2 GlVnG.

Office hours of the Tender Office of the Treuhandanstalt Chemnitz Branch are Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. (local time).

Dr. Dirk Welschbach, Director Treuhandanstalt Chemnitz Branch

For further free information (Company profiles, visit authorizations, etc.) please contact:

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Tel. +49-30-31542609
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TECHNOLOGY

Acquiring a taste for innovation

Andrew Lawrence describes how retail banking in eastern Europe is adjusting to computerisation

Until last year the Slaski Bank in Katowice, in south west Poland, was much like any other in eastern Europe: customers queued for so long that they took sandwiches to eat while they waited, the drawn out and bureaucratic transactions. These could take so long that people looked on a visit to the bank as a social event.

Behind the scenes, things were even worse. Management information that would be considered vital to banks in the west would either be provided late or not at all. Fraud was also a problem.

In 1990 the Polish government created nine new regional retail banks and told them to prepare for competition and privatisation. Marian Rajczyk, president of the Katowice-based Bank Slaski, the largest of the nine, took a quick decision based on his knowledge of western banks: to use technology to improve customer service, management information and establish competitive advantage.

He invited western computer companies to provide software, hardware and to undertake the project management for the computerisation of the bank's 42 branches. He wanted automated teller machines (ATMs), account management, transaction handling, administrative support, and even signature verification. And he stipulated that it had to be done quickly.

As Poland's largest retail bank, and a pioneer in technology, the Slaski project attracted competitive bids. IBM, anxious to establish market share in Eastern Europe, won a fixed-price contract to manage the project, beating off competition from ICL, Digital Equipment and Hewlett-Packard.

The conditions for beginning a project of this kind could not have been worse, says the banking project manager for IBM Eastern Europe, Maciej Borysoglebski. Slaski's managers had seen western banks in operation and they had high expectations of what could be achieved, but little understanding of either computers or western banking procedures. And unlike western banks, they did not have the computer skills, the stable legislative environment or the infrastructure.

The Slaski managers were also unprepared for such a large computer project. Although they were highly motivated, they were not used to "task ownership", says Borysoglebski. "They were given tasks and dates for completion and found it very frightening."

From the outset, Poland's poor telecommunications system was a problem. Banks in western countries are able to connect their ATMs to central computers using leased telephone lines, but this is not yet feasible on a large scale in Poland.

In consequence, each branch operates as a self-contained unit, with the ATMs only able to access data held on the local IBM AS/400 minicomputers in each branch. Only when the telecommunications infrastructure is in place will the machines be linked on a network.

The lack of telecommunications support created another problem for Slaski: how to verify that account holders were who they said they were. This led to Slaski's biggest innovation. Using a software package called Insign from Inform, a German software house, a customer's signature can be called up electronically on the personal computer workstations for immediate comparison.

IBM chose to use a banking software package from the German software company Actis in order to avoid costly application development. But this created problems of its own: the Polish banking laws changed by the month, creating a need for repeated changes. The dilemma of how much software to re-write, and when, is continuous.

Another problem was that Slaski's offices were not designed for computers. Most branches needed refurbishing, but the quality of the local workmanship could not always be relied upon. Two days before the opening of one branch, the ceiling collapsed. In another branch the walls gave in.

Despite these problems, the project has been completed on schedule. Today, staff at the Katowice Bank pose for photographs behind new computer terminals while behind them customers withdraw money in the banking hall.

Slaski's banking applications are now being eyed by other banks in Poland and eastern Europe. Buoyed up by its technological leadership, Slaski is planning to expand its operations into other parts of Poland.

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Technically Speaking Sounds from the myth makers

By Steven Butler

The myth-making industry has outdone itself with two products set to be launched later this year: the minidisc and the digital compact cassette, new digital recording formats developed by Sony and by Philips and Matsushita.

The companies themselves can be absolved of blame. It is natural, after all, that they want to see us throw out perfectly good electronic equipment and replace it with the latest gizmos. Yet an extraordinary number of new audio products have been acclaimed as winners before anyone has seen or heard them except in prototype form.

The first myth about these latest offerings is that because MD and DCC are digital they must sound as good as compact discs. While audiophiles may argue over CD quality, it is undeniable that the sound which hi-fi equipment makers have been able to achieve on a CD has improved over the years as they have gained experience with digital processing.

Unfortunately that experience may not be directly transferable because the MD and DCC formats are different from CDs and from each other. Indeed, MD and DCC may never match a CD in quality because they employ compression technologies to store more information in a small space. Compression works by eliminating storage of repeated information, theoretically not needed, but this is a bit like saying that a frozen vegetable tastes theoretically like a fresh one because everything important is preserved.

The test is in the listening, or in this case the listening, and the final quality depends on how well the engineers do their jobs. No one knows just yet. And don't believe anyone who claims to have heard the two new technologies run off against CDs. Proper testing comparisons of audio equipment is a subjective business, often best performed in the quiet of your own living room.

The second myth is that MD is in direct competition with DCC, and that only one can succeed. Although both are digital recording formats, from the point of view of consumers, they will be competing in different segments of the traditional analogue cassette market, and probably not against CDs at all.

DCC will appeal to consumers ready to replace their old tape recorder who want to be able to play old cassettes on the new machine, while at the same time enjoying the advantages of digital sound, namely the absence of background noise. But consumers ought to ask whether their old cassettes will sound nearly as good on the new machines as on the analogue recorder they now own, which probably has high-quality sound reproduction already. And while no tape hiss is a strong point, musical fidelity of DCC for digital tapes may be no better than the analogue machines.

MD, by contrast, is really for people on the go, who want recordable digital sound in an extremely small package. In a few years, when the engineers have time to shrink it further, an MD machine may be a fraction of the size of the smallest currently available Walkman-type cassette players, and will offer instant access to musical tracks just as a CD does.

In short, both formats have a their place. Indeed, Sony, as one of the world's biggest manufacturers of magnetic tape, has a strong interest in seeing both products succeed. DCC, apparently rival to Sony's MD, will happily use Sony tape.

The third myth is that the fate of the companies involved, if not the entire consumer electronics industry, hangs on the success of these two products. Certainly the consumer electronics industry is in the doldrums, in large part because of a lack of exciting new blockbuster products.

Yet neither DCC nor MD really offers the promise of revolutionising the music industry, as did the launch of compact discs a decade ago. More likely, both will be moderately successful products that will neither make nor break their backers.

The Orbital comes full circle

John Griffiths examines a prototype engine capable of meeting strict emissions standards

Some ordinary-looking, but distinctly strange-sounding, Ford Fiestas have been cruising the British country lanes of Suffolk recently. Beneath their bonnets lie prototype engines which, if an evaluation programme just beginning proves successful, are likely to form the bedrock of Ford's petrol and diesel technology for the mid-to late-1990s.

The engines have been developed jointly by Ford and the Orbital Engine Company of Western Australia. In the Fiesta, they have three cylinders and work on the two-stroke principle, providing twice as many power strokes per revolution as a conventional petrol engine - and thus having the smoothness and flexibility of a six-cylinder unit.

Another advantage is that the engine has no valves and thus none of the heavy and complicated components needed to operate them. It is half the size of a conventional engine of similar capacity and saves about one-third the weight of a conventional unit (equivalent to 30 kilograms in the Fiesta). Size for size the engine is 10 per cent more powerful and 12 per cent more economical than its conventional rivals.

Not least of its attractions, according to Ford development engineers, is that it is already capable of meeting the most stringent exhaust emissions standards currently in force.

The unit is now being assessed amid optimism that it will be able to qualify as an "Ultra-Low Emission Vehicle" under even stricter Californian legislation due in 1997. To achieve this, Ford and Orbital claim to have made a "technological breakthrough" in terms of minimising emissions, but are refusing to discuss the details.

Ford has just finished production of 25 Orbital prototypes, which are set to enter service with police forces and other intensive users for a one-year evaluation programme. As some doubt remains over the engine's durability, it is hoped that during the test period each one will cover 100,000 miles.

A further 35 engines are to be manufactured at Ford's Dagenham plant before the end of the year. Some of the test vehicles will enter service in Germany as well.

If the programme does not result in any unexpected problems, Ford hopes to have small, Orbital-engined cars in its range by as early as 1995. Although initial applications are expected to be on small cars, Ford acknowledges that it has other, long-term projects with Orbital covering a variety of engines, including six-cylinder and supercharged units.

Indeed, Jaguar, now a wholly-owned subsidiary of Ford of the US, has just made the surprise disclosure of its own joint project with Orbital, of a 3.5 litre V6 engine. Prototypes of this type are 40 per cent lighter than Jaguar's V12 engine but have the same power output.

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Credito Italiano S.p.A. 1991 results

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS FOR THE YEAR

| | Lit. in billions | Pounds Sterling in thousands |
|---|------------------|------------------------------|
| LOANS & ADVANCES | 36,035 | 16,719,638 |
| CUSTOMER DEPOSITS | 37,803 | 17,539,960 |
| SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY & PROVISIONS (after distribution of profit) | 4,732 | 2,195,569 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 90,959 | 42,203,457 |
| GROSS PROFIT | 963.8 | 447,187 |
| less: | | |
| Extraordinary items | 7.7 | 3,573 |
| Taxation | 250.8 | 116,367 |
| Write-downs | 23.3 | 10,811 |
| Depreciation & Provisions | 392.9 | 182,299 |
| NET PROFIT | 289.1 | 134,138 |

The year ended December 31, 1991 closed with a net profit of Lit 289.1 billion. Lit 148.5 billion has been appropriated to Reserves.

The dividend for the year on ordinary shares will be Lit 85, while the dividend paid on savings shares will be Lit 100.

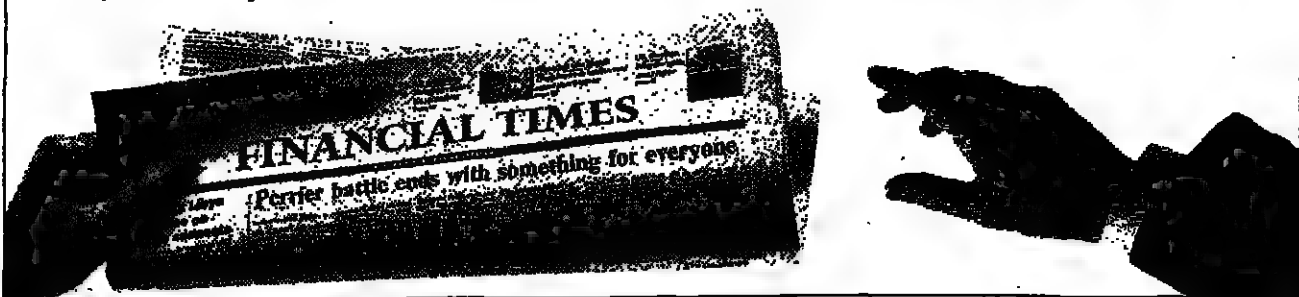
The Pound Sterling countervalues have been calculated using the average Milan/Rome exchange rate registered on December 31, 1991, which was Lit 2,155.25 = £ 1.00.

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PEOPLE

Stanic's charter to develop standards

Vlad Stanic, former head of management development at TSB group, has been appointed development director for the Management Charter Initiative, the UK body which aims to set standards in management training.

He faces a stiff challenge. The MCI was launched in 1988 only to find - a year later - it lacked the support of UK managers who described the organisation as bureaucratic and uninspiring. Since then, the response from employers has been patchy.

Already christened "the Impaler" by waggish MCI staff, Stanic believes the approach may be useful in his new post: "I would like to impale all

those senior managers who go through the motions but do not actually relate their management development to their business objectives."

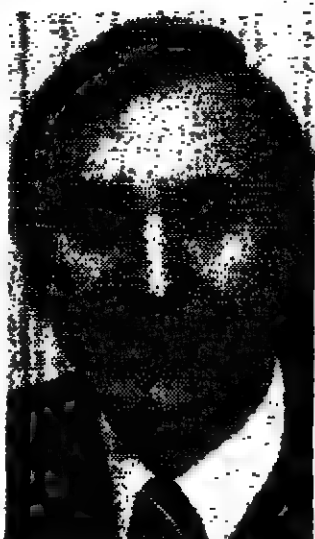
He has a reputation for asking people penetrating questions; former colleagues say he is intelligent and confident and has a knack of putting those around him at their ease. He describes his working style as informal and flexible but is determined to meet the business objectives he sets even if that means working all night.

During more than 20 years in personnel he has left some scars on the human resources he managed. At Spicer & Oppenheimer he put reluctant partners through their paces

with the introduction of performance appraisal, while senior managers at Rank Xerox found they were required to acquire MBAs.

Born in Yugoslavia in 1941, he was educated and has worked largely in the UK. He is a chartered psychologist who describes himself as a maverick: "Most psychologists have a purer than white approach. They have never heard of the idea of customer services or user-friendly psychology. I have dirtied my hands in industry so I see things from a business point of view."

Most recently he has worked as an independent consultant advising blue chip companies on personnel issues.



■ Tony Rieger has resigned from TIP Europe, the trailer rental group he helped to a 1988 stock market listing after it had been the subject of a management buyout.

Rieger's role as managing director of the company's trailer rental division will be assumed by David Callier, the chief executive. Callier had organised TIP Europe's financial restructuring after it breached a loan agreement in 1980.

Jim Davis, chairman, says there are "no hard feelings". "Tony Rieger had great entrepreneurial flair but what we are seeking at the present time is a more steady approach."

Rieger is understood to be receiving about £250,000 in final remunerations.

■ Sears has appointed Ian Thomson to be managing director of BRITISH SHOE in a renewed attempt to sort out the quagmire that is its footwear subsidiary.

Thomson, 46, can point to some useful experience for the task, coming as he does from the South African Edgars Group where he returned its loss-making Sales House business to profit. Sales House, primarily a clothes retailer, makes over 30 per cent of its sales in footwear so Thomson clearly knows one end of a shoe from the other.

His brief will be to differentiate British Shoe's retail brands far more clearly. The problem has been that many of British Shoe's formats, which include Freeman Hardy Willis, Saxone, Dolcis and Cable & Co, overlap in the marketplace.



Non-executive directors

■ Sir Michael Quinlan, permanent under secretary at the ministry of defence until his retirement in April, has been appointed as a non-executive director to the board of Lloyds Bank from September. He is also set to join the board of Pilkington later this year, and is taking over as director of the Ditchley Foundation as well.

The appointment of Sir Michael, a leading authority on nuclear deterrence, also ensures that when Sir Jeremy Morse, the UK clearing bank's formidably intellectual chairman, retires next year there will still be an Oxford double first in Classics on the board.

■ Peter Nicholson at RIVA: Andrew Cummins has resigned.

■ Ian Menzies at WESTCOUNTRY TELEVISION on behalf of Henderson Venture Managers.

■ David Orr, chairman of Château Latour, at HARVEYS OF BRISTOL.

■ Peter Kent is changing his responsibilities from executive to non-executive at NOBO.

■ Paul Lever, chairman of Lionheart, as chairman of BSM GROUP.

■ John Turner, recently retired senior partner of the Norwich office of KPMG Peat Marwick, at PROPERTY PARTNERSHIPS.

■ Robert Updell at SUNLEIGH, which has acquired Gavel Securities of which he was chairman.

The fact that many of its inmates are not the greatest fans of the controversial Lloyd's building is obviously no hindrance to participating in the world of design philanthropy, since its architect, Sir Richard Rogers, 58, has just been appointed a trustee of London's design museum.

The Richard Rogers partnership is currently working on the European Court of Human Rights in Strasbourg and Terminal 5 at Heathrow airport, outside London. He has also taken to the printed word recently, co-authoring a blueprint for changing Britain's capital city with Mark Fisher, the Labour party's shadow arts minister.

Joining Rogers on the enlarged, 14-member trustee's board will be Alice Rawsthorn, 33, a journalist with the Financial Times' Paris office. Before taking up her Paris post last year, Rawsthorn wrote for the FT on advertising and design in London. A case of poacher seduced into gamekeeping if ever there was one.

■ David Allen has taken over from Kurt Huber as md of The Clayton Aniline Company; he was previously managing a factory in Brazil for the parent, CIBA-GEIGY.

■ David Simpson, formerly sales director of Steelley Roofing Products, has been appointed sales director of REDLAND Roof Tiles.

■ Graham Bog has been promoted to INCECAF's regional director for Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

■ Paul Hussey has been appointed company secretary and group legal adviser of BUNZL.

■ Norio Osawa is promoted to md of QUICK EUROPE at its London headquarters.

THE WEEK IN LUXEMBOURG

Court authorises multiple professional practices



Last week, the European Court of Justice added another judgment to those already guaranteeing the rights of EC professionals to operate in more than one Community country.

A Luxembourg law preventing foreign doctors, dentists and vets from practising in Luxembourg, if they already do so in another EC country, was condemned by the ECJ as infringing the Rome Treaty rules on establishment and free movement of employees.

The EC Commission brought infringement proceedings under its general Treaty enforcement powers against the Luxembourg law's blanket ban on foreign doctors, dentists and vets establishing secondary practices or accepting additional employment in Luxembourg.

While the law recognises the freedom of foreign professionals to provide cross-border services, only Luxembourg professionals enjoy the limited exceptional rights to have second practices.

This case reinforces the fundamental rights under the Rome Treaty of businessmen and professionals to establish or accept employment in more than one member country.

Luxembourg argued that doctors, dentists and vets could not provide an adequate service to the public unless they operated from a single practice and were constantly available.

The Court rejected Luxembourg's attempts to justify the restrictions on health and public policy grounds because other measures were available to safeguard these interests which interfered less with basic Treaty rights.

For example, a 24-hour service could be guaranteed through substitutes and temporary employees rather than by a professional being on permanent call.

Other professions, such as lawyers and accountants, may now be better placed to resist protectionist pressures from certain EC countries. Professionals may rely on the protection of the ECJ to operate from secondary offices or accept employment while maintaining their original establishments.

Case C-351/90, *Commission v Luxembourg*, ECJ FC June 16 1992

Jurisdiction in non-contractual product liability cases

In a decision that may limit the possibilities for plaintiffs to shop around for the best forum in which to bring product liability claims, the ECJ clarified the meaning of "contractual matters" in the Brussels Convention on Jurisdiction and Judgments.

The Court held that proceedings brought by a sub-buyer against a manufacturer do not concern "contractual matters" when the goods subject to the proceedings alleged to be defective and unfit for their purpose were bought from a party other than the manufacturer in a chain of contracts.

The question of interpretation arose in a damages action brought in France by a French plaintiff against a German manufacturer and French seller of a suction system bought to be attached to two metal polishing machines purchased from a Swiss company.

The plaintiff claimed damages against all parties on the basis of alleged breaches of French health and safety at work rules and on the ground that the goods were unfit for the purpose for which they were bought.

The French court ruled that while it had no jurisdiction over the Swiss company it did have jurisdiction over the German manufacturer and French seller under the Brussels Convention.

The ECJ made what is known as an "autonomous" interpretation of the Brussels Convention provisions, applying the interpretative approach laid down in previous cases.

It interpreted the special rules for "contractual matters", which allow a defendant to be sued in the place where the contract was to be performed, in accordance with the Convention's fundamental objective of ensuring legal certainty for business in the

jurisdiction.

The ECJ said that even though under French law the plaintiff was entitled to sue in the French courts, this deprived business of the legal certainty assured by the Convention's general rule that a defendant must be sued in the country of his domicile, unless one of the Convention exceptions applies.

In the case of dispute between a manufacturer and a sub-buyer of his product, there is no direct contractual relationship. For this reason alone, the Court found the dispute could not benefit from the special jurisdiction rules applicable to "contractual matters" because there was no obligation freely entered into between either party.

The other reasons given by the ECJ for rejecting the broader interpretation, advocated by the Commission in its observations, illustrate the significance the decision may have in product liability disputes.

First, the ECJ said that in a chain of international contracts, the contractual obligations accepted by a manufacturer in his agreement with the purchaser are not necessarily the same as those that the purchaser may agree with his own customer.

Second, the principle of judicial protection of parties established in the Community

excludes an interpretation of the special jurisdiction rules which deprives the defendant of certainty as to which court he may be sued in other than a court of his domicile.

Finally, in the vast majority of member countries, including the UK, the liability of a manufacturer to a sub-buyer for defective goods is a tortious or non-contractual liability.

Case C-26/91, *Société Jakob Handt et Cie GmbH v Société Traitements mécano-chimiques des surfaces*, ECJ FC June 17 1992.

Looking Ahead

The ECJ and the CFI will begin the summer vacation on Friday July 10 1992. In the next three weeks, several judgments are expected as the judges try to clear their desks, including decisions on tachographs in the UK and an appeal in a competition case involving fur

Advocates General's opinions are also due in the first week of July in the *Woodpulp* and UK Sunday trading cases.

On July 1, the first day of the UK presidency of the Council of Ministers, the oral hearing in the British drinking water case will take place in Luxembourg.

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Tuesday June 23 1992

South Africa on the brink

SOUTH AFRICA has reached a watershed in its search for democracy. Constitutional negotiations have ground to a halt. Not coincidentally, political violence is increasing.

The danger that now confronts the country is that only more violence and civil upheaval will break the impasse in the battle to reconcile majority rule and minority rights. The fearsome possibility that the country could tilt towards ungovernability will undoubtedly be uppermost in the minds of Mr Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress (ANC) executive at their meeting today, not to mention President FW de Klerk and his cabinet when they meet tomorrow. Looking into the abyss should be enough to give fresh and urgent impetus to negotiations.

The events of the past week, horrific as they were, do not in themselves signal a turning point in South Africa's prospects. Since Mr Mandela's release over two years ago, there have been killings as savage as those that took place in Boipatong township last Wednesday. They have been accompanied by the same allegations that supporters of Chief Mangosuthu Buthe's Inkatha Freedom Party were responsible, together with accusations of security force complicity. The South African police force once again showed on Saturday, when it fired on a grieving crowd and killed three people, how ill-equipped it is for its role in post-apartheid South Africa: badly disciplined, trigger happy and hostile to change.

But when they are set against the background of the breakdown of constitutional talks last month, these latest acts of violence take on a greater significance. The government's insistence on what amounts to a white veto in a new constitution, coupled with its inadequate response to political violence, has persuaded an increasing number of black South Africans to make a fundamental shift in their assessment of President de Klerk's commitment to reform.

A year ago Mr Nelson Mandela, the African National Congress (ANC) leader, could assuage his constituents' anger by reaffirming

his belief in Mr de Klerk's integrity, and holding out the prospect of multi-party talks at a Convention for a Democratic South Africa (Codesa). Progress at these talks, which would have joint supervision of the security forces on the agenda, he argued, was the best way to tackle the country's seemingly endemic political violence.

Last weekend Mr Mandela's message to angry and disillusioned supporters was very different. The negotiations were in tatters, he had to admit, and he could no longer use Codesa as a political safety valve. Talk now is of "mass action" - strikes, marches, demonstrations, boycotts.

The ANC has yet to show that it can sustain such activities; but the shift in tactics risks delivering a heavy blow to government hopes for new investment and fresh borrowing, both essential if the economy is to pull out of its recession.

Moreover, the ANC's campaign carries an obvious risk of further violence, whether in confrontation with security forces or with Inkatha. While Mr Mandela may not intend as much, a generation of angry young blacks who sacrificed their education in order to man township barricades, will take this as a mandate for insurrection.

The answer is not, as President de Klerk hinted at the weekend, reintroduction of tougher security measures.

He should instead be restoring his credibility by ordering an independent inquiry into the police role in both the Boipatong tragedies - last Wednesday's massacre and the shootings on Saturday - including allegations that the authorities failed to act on warnings of impending slaughter. He ought to encourage rapid reform of the grim, all-male hotels in the townships, source of so much tension. He should also authorise a more rigorous investigation of the so-called "third force", right-wing extremists set on destabilising the peace process by instigating violence between black parties.

A convincing demonstration of government good faith is needed if negotiations are to resume and South Africa is again to pull itself back from the brink.

A Slav divorce

THE LAST time Czechoslovakia was dismembered it was a victim of Nazi invasion and western impotence. This time the decision to break up into two separate sovereign states follows a general election, in which 85 per cent of the electorate turned out to vote, and several rounds of talks between the elected leaders of both the Czech and Slovak nations. Although deeply to be regretted, the decision at least places responsibility squarely upon Czech and Slovak shoulders.

The political situation has polarised and crystallised with extraordinary speed. All pre-election opinion polls showed that a large majority in both republics wanted the common state to continue in some form or other. Now the Czechs, and with slightly less conviction the Moravians, of whom more may be heard later, appear to be rallying behind Mr Vaclav Klaus. He won electoral support in the Czech lands because he promised to continue, and even accelerate, the pace of privatisation and other reforms. These are designed both to prevent a return to the authoritarian past and to fulfil the criteria for full European Community membership by the turn of the century.

His view of continuation of a common state on lines demanded by Mr Vladimir Meciar, the Slovak leader, would both jeopardise economic reform and risk pulling

Czechoslovakia back towards its recently shed authoritarian past is widely shared in the Czech lands. But the outcome of the negotiations also furnished the latest proof that the richer and more numerous Czechs do indeed call the shots in the common state, as Slovaks have complained for decades. It is not easy to play second fiddle without hope of advancement, and many Slovaks feel that 1,000 years in somebody else's shadow is enough. It is also true that they have suffered more than the Czechs from economic policies made largely in Prague. Their heavy industry was more vulnerable to the collapse of the Soviet market, more difficult to privatise and less able to adapt to western markets.

Once independent, the Slovaks will be able to work out their own policies, and make their own mistakes. This may be psychologically a good thing. If it helps them to work out long felt resentments. But they are likely to find that their freedom of manoeuvre is savagely limited.

Independent Slovakia aspires to eventual EC membership, but to qualify, it will have to fulfil onerous entry requirements. That means an open and competitive economy and respect for the rights of minorities. The irony is that this will require following similar policies to those demanded for continuing the federal state.

Top salaries

THIS YEAR'S report from the UK's Top Salaries Review Body - expected to land on the prime minister's desk later this week - is already causing a political storm. Due before the general election, the report is thought likely to recommend pay rises taking some judges, generals and senior civil servants well over £100,000 a year. The government postponed publication to avoid top people's pay becoming an election issue.

The delay has done nothing to make more palatable possible pay rises of 30 per cent. Junior and middle-ranking civil servants have had to make do this year with rises of 4.5 per cent or less and the level of settlements in the private sector has been falling.

Yet if the report makes recommendations of this magnitude, the government will not wish lightly to set them aside. The TSRB last

year pointed out that the salaries of public servants in its remit are generally less than half the median earnings of comparable managers in the private sector. Recruitment and retention of high quality public servants is in the public interest, as is two way traffic in high-fliers between private business and Whitehall.

Comparison of risk and reward in the private and public sectors, however, is not as easy as it sometimes assumed. In a period when the government is trying to introduce clearer performance standards into the public service, the debate about civil service pay also needs to become more subtle. A useful next step would be for members of the TSRB to defend their recommendations in public, paying the way for government to set out the reasons for its decision in some detail.

Mr Ferdinand Piech grinned as he drove off in a big black Audi limousine. He told his driver to get in the back, and slipped behind the wheel himself.

It was a small incident on a sunny day in Munich, but enough to show that Mr Piech, 55, is different from the usual run of executives who are happy to let their chauffeurs take the wheel. His appointment to take over next year as head of the Volkswagen group, which owns Audi where Mr Piech is the chief executive, was controversial. Not only is he a somewhat prickly personality, he has uncompromising views on how the industry should improve productivity and cut costs. Both shareholder and union representatives on VW's non-executive supervisory board agreed that Mr Piech - who impressed at Audi with his record of rising profits and attractive new models - was the man to give the company a thorough overhaul.

On a broader level, the arrival of Mr Piech at VW marks the growing awareness of German car makers that their once-dominant position is under threat. German companies account for about 40 per cent of total west European sales - producing nearly 5m cars a year and exporting roughly half of them. There are nearly 2m production jobs at German motor manufacturers and suppliers, and twice as many if sales, repairs and other activities are included - one in every six jobs in west Germany. The industry accounts for about a fifth of gross national product and as such has underpinned Germany's postwar "economic miracle".

In spite of the industry's obvious successes, German executives have become edgy. The global recession outside their home markets is forcing car companies to squeeze more profits from existing domestic plants rather than relying on steady growth in worldwide sales. The slowdown is compounding German companies' increasing vulnerability to Japanese competition increasingly in the luxury car area, both from Japanese-built imports and from plants set up in Europe. By the mid-1990s, the latter should be producing more than 1m cars a year. The situation mirrors that of the US in the late 1980s. "The US did not react to the Japanese invasion then and now it's very late for them," Mr Piech says. "It's no good asking your opponent not to attack any more. It's better to hit back."

Closer to home, European competitors, notably in France, have made great strides. Car makers such as Renault and Peugeot have slashed their workforces and improved efficiency. In the European Community (except Germany), car producers have, over the past decade, shed 410,000 jobs. In Germany, automotive jobs have risen by 75,000 over the same period, spurred by strong demand from eastern Germany following unification in 1990. This artificial boost temporarily masked some of the underlying problems.

The productivity gap between the rest of the EC and Germany has also narrowed. In the 1980s, productivity at French and UK motor companies rose by an average rate of about 6 per cent a year compared with 5 per cent for Spain and only 2 per cent for Germany.

In spite of this development, by 1990, Germany still topped the European league - France's productivity was 91 per cent of Germany's, with Italy at 74 per cent and the UK (before the full impact of recent Japanese investment) still some way behind at 61 per cent - but it

Time to become lean and mean

Andrew Fisher examines the challenges confronting the German car industry

German car industry: the cost crunch



Source: German Automotive Industry Association (VDA)

Jagged Japanese home-based production by some 50 per cent. Mr Achim Diekmann, managing director of the German motor industry association, says: "We still have some catching up to do."

Catching up will be difficult as long as German wage costs continue to march ahead of productivity. Including social security payments, they are among the highest in the world (see chart). One solution to the problem is to cut jobs - a course now being taken:

● VW has said some 12,500 jobs will disappear over the next five years from its domestic workforce of 130,000.

● Mercedes-Benz has announced it will shed up to 10,000 jobs this year after its workers, along with others in the car industry, won a 5.5 per cent pay award for 1992.

● BMW is shedding 3,000 from its domestic workforce of about 68,000 this year and will today announce the site of a new US plant in South Carolina to help it produce more cheaply for the local market.

● Opel, the profitable subsidiary of General Motors of the US, wants to reduce the 31,000-strong workforce at its main plant in Rüsselsheim by about 6,000 over the next five years. Like VW, Opel is building a plant in east Germany.

Despite the urgency with which these measures are being implemented, "things look quite gloomy" on the costs front, says Mr Holger Karsten, of management consul-

tants Arthur D Little. So gloomy that Germany's still-superior productivity cannot offset lower costs elsewhere in Europe. Opel says it takes DM 750 (\$260) more to make its Vectra mid-range car at its main Rüsselsheim plant near Frankfurt than Vauxhall (also part of GM) needs for the same vehicle (the Cavalier in the UK) at Luton in England. Even though productivity is lower in the UK, favourable unit costs more than offset this disadvantage.

In addition, German car makers are hampered by shorter working hours than their main overseas competitors. Mr Werner Schmidt, VW's marketing and overseas director, says a VW worker in Germany spends less than 1,500 hours a year on the production line compared with up to 2,000 hours in Japan. Employees at VW's Spanish plants work 25 per cent more hours than their counterparts in Germany; staff at VW's plant in Mexico work 33 per cent more hours. Next year, the introduction of a 36-hour working week will make the German motor industry keener than ever to extract more productive value from the hours worked.

Here they are looking east for guidance: for Japan's car makers are Germany's biggest rivals partly because of management and production line restructuring which is being continuously improved.

What most frightens German executives is the prospect of a rising volume of cars built more cheaply by Japanese companies in the UK, many of which will be exported to continental Europe. "The Japanese plan to build between 700,000 and 800,000 cars a year in the UK, roughly the same as Opel's German capacity, including Eisenach (the new east German plant)," says Mr Peter Enderle, Opel's production director.

Already, German makers regard the Nissan plant in Sunderland in north-east England as a prime threat. Opel says the Primera mid-range car made there by Nissan is priced markedly lower than its German-made Vectra. "Nissan Sunderland has set a new standard for us all," says Mr Piech who has visited the plant. "We have to challenge the Japanese."

How? Cutting jobs will not be enough. So, prodded by the notions of "lean manufacturing", "lean management", and "simultaneous engineering", German companies have set about redesigning their production methods.

This involves shifting even more of the car production process, and thus the cost burden, to outside suppliers. In Germany, the usual level of "vertical integration" - the share of the car built inside the car plant - is about 40 per cent; the target for new east German sites is about 25 per cent.

Audi has reduced its level of ver-

tical integration to 20 per cent, keeping only complex operations in-house, such as engines, gears, bodywork and final assembly. It has made big savings by having wiring systems made in Hungary and Poland. German car makers in general are putting increased emphasis on buying not just single parts but whole systems such as wheel assemblies from outside suppliers. "The innovative ability in the German automobile industry comes in part from the highly specialised supply companies," says Arthur D Little's Mr Karsten.

On the production line, more team work is being introduced to give employees extra motivation and responsibility. But, adds Mr Karsten, management structures must also be made more flexible, so that rigid German production, development and marketing divisions are dissolved. Traditionally, Germany's corporate pyramid has been fairly rigid and hierarchical, and breaking down entrenched ways of working at companies such as Mercedes-Benz and VW will not be easy, says Mr Karsten.

Many of the leaner, streamlined working and management practices are being introduced at greenfield sites in Germany. Mercedes' new Easta car plant in west Germany incorporates more widespread use of team work than in its other plants; VW set up a special team comprising experts from all divisions for the design and production of its latest Golf model.

We are bringing in efficiencies we never had," says VW's Mr Schmidt. The trick is applying the Japanese-inspired lessons at home. Mr Schmidt reckons productivity in VW's west German plants can be raised by an annual 5 per cent through a variety of modest improvements, including group work.

Will all this radical change work? Already the powerful IG Metall union has expressed doubts about Opel's plan to contract to (lower-paid) outside suppliers some of its body-stamping work.

In the past, consensus has been reached through the German system of co-determination at board and plant level. But, as Mr Diekmann of the motor industry association, says: "We are approaching a new structure in the industry. It can only be done if unions and management co-operate."

Though this year's engineering sector wage deal of 5.5 per cent will not help the German industry in its effort to dampen rising costs, next year's agreed 3.4 per cent rise indicates that the car unions have started to realise the gravity of the industry's problems. They are reluctantly aware that jobs must be lost and productivity gains must be made if they are to compete.

The choice of Mr Piech to run VW shows unions and management are trying to work closer together. This is a positive sign. Like their US rivals, German companies have been slow to react to Japan's penetration of their markets but the determination of German industrialists to cling on to sales means competitors in Europe and Japan are in for a tough fight. The Germans are unlikely to be the losers in the long run, but success will have its price: the shape of the German car industry will change inexorably as manufacturers invest more abroad and cut jobs at home. Within 10 years the industry will have developed a new streamlined shape - not so much a Mercedes family sedan, more a sleek and sporty Audi.

Joe Rogaly

The tiger refuses to leave its cage



make them to deliver.

The proposed formula is familiar. Liberalise the economy. Privatisise the extensive public sector. Open the sub-continent to trade with the outside world. Introduce competition from abroad. End the monopolies and cosy deals that cushion domestic manufacturers, with the consequence that they produce low-quality goods at a high cost. Sweep away the regulations that stifle the free development and growth of our potential new Asian economic superpower. Then watch.

There is a flaw in this line of thinking. It is best put in a remark attributed to an Indian politician. "The door is open," this sagacious fellow is supposed to have said, "but the tiger will not come out of the cage."

During the decade just passed, successive Indian governments have attempted to release their country's entrepreneurial spirit. Mrs Indira Gandhi began to flirt with such a strategy. Her son Rajiv took it further. Both failed. A year ago, a new prime minister, Mr P V Narasimha Rao, initiated the most far-reaching programme of economic reform yet undertaken. His finance minister, Dr Manmohan Singh, devalued the rupee and later, in his recent budget, made it partially convertible. The projected deficit was slashed. A large chunk of

the "permit raj" - the mass of regulations that made the corruption of officials a necessary cost of investment - was swept away. Foreign money was welcomed; joint ventures with outsiders were most assiduously courted. A start was made on lowering the tariff walls that protect domestic industry.

Now, it seems, confidence in the sustainability of this little revolution is beginning to ebb. If the government does not stay the course, if Mr Rao and Dr Singh do not pursue liberalisation with the vigour with which they began, the tiger will remain stuck. I believe that it is too early to make such a judgment. Indians, and India-watchers, are natural pessimists. Their gloom is

Some Indians look with a mixture of envy and apprehension upon China

understandable. When you consider the history of this huge republic over the half-century since independence, there is much to be pessimistic about.

The mood of a conclave of India specialists held at Ditchley Park, the international conference centre in Oxfordshire, at the weekend was, however, cautiously optimistic. Those present included economists, diplomats, a sprinkling of politicians and academics. Most of them came from India, Britain, or the US. It was generally agreed that the Rao government is right to pursue its programme of economic reform,

but there was sharp debate about its motives.

One flatly expressed view was that it is all a sham - that the country was broke when Mr Rao was propelled into the top job at the age of 70 and that he had no option but to go to the IMF and the World Bank to borrow money. The terms insisted upon by those Washington-based global missionaries are well known. The gospel of liberalisation, free markets and prudent budgeting must be embraced. Then the heavens will receive their beads.

Others were less world-weary. They insisted that genuine conviction motivates India's most prominent enthusiasts for liberalisation, of whom perhaps a dozen could be identified as sitting in key positions in the administration. The reforms are backed by the great longing for western comforts and standards of achievement that is so evidently felt by India's relatively affluent "middle class" ("actually upper class" said someone at the weekend).

Middle or upper, the latter group constitutes an aspirant nation within a nation. It numbers somewhere between 80m and 200m people, depending on definitions, in a country of 850m. If you think of the central core of this bourgeois India as comprising 15m families, then every one of them has at least one relative abroad, mostly in Britain, the US, or Canada but actually spread around 42 countries. This huge diaspora of "non-resident Indians" is the subcontinent's window on the world.

It is difficult to believe that with such a force behind it the attempt to modernise in a western way will be abandoned. In truth, there is no other hole to go to. For most of the



near half-century since independence, India has run a mixed economy - mixed between the huge state-owned sector and a hugely protected and inefficient private sector. The republic's principal trading partner, and the supplier of many of its early ideas on economic planning, was the Soviet Union. That entity no longer exists. Some Indians look with a mixture of envy and apprehension upon China and wonder whether an authoritarian regime plus free markets may not be the way to India's great credit to its own lively democracy is too deeply embedded for that.

In the long run, therefore, that tiger will be sprung. What is questionable is the immediate future. A bad monsoon could sweep the Rao government out of office. Assuming it survives, it has to move to the agenda of unpopular decisions. Cutting the immense subsidies that clog the economy could lead to rioting in the streets. Sacking workers from inefficient industries, the "exit policy", is something from which any government would shrink. Increased social spending, which is vital if the poorest third of the population is to be brought into the modern economy, may mean higher

direct taxation of the "upper" class. Yet it is urgent that more money is spent on such social programmes as the spread of female literacy, the single factor most likely to reduce the birth rate.

At the same time, India's foreign policy, evolved under Nehru, must be reshaped to meet a single goal: the furtherance of its economic development. This means abandoning old delusions of grandeur, based on leadership of the now-redundant "non-aligned movement". The quarrel with Pakistan must somehow be settled; solutions to the almost intractable problems of Kashmir and the Punjab sought. Then the military budget can be trimmed - after the Russians have been paid for what they have already supplied.

I suspect that Mr Rao understands all this, but that he has enough on his plate managing domestic politics and keeping his economic reform programme moving. He has to keep his balance while India conducts a national debate. For all the assumptions upon which all post-independence decisions have been based are now under question. That is why the tiger is stuck. It is still thinking.

David Goodhart and Michael Smith look at the arguments for and against high pay increases for top UK public servants

Playing catch-up with private sector fat cats

When Strathclyde local authority advertised for a new chief executive this year, the starting salary of £105,000 will have touched some raw nerves among senior employees in other public service jobs.

Strathclyde may be the largest authority in Britain but Mr Neil McIntosh, the successful candidate, will earn more than Sir Robin Butler, head of the civil service, Lord Taylor, the lord chief justice, and Field Marshall Sir Richard Vincent, chief of the defence staff, all of whom take home an annual £104,750. Until this year, Strathclyde paid its chief executive £76,000.

This level of pay rise for the new generation of public sector executives exacerbates what was always going to be a difficult year for the government on top people's pay. It is caught between pressures to reduce widening differentials between the private sector and the 2,040 senior public servants whose salaries are covered by the Review Body on Top Salaries, and the need to hold down pay in the public sector.

The Review Body's 16th report, and the first full-scale review of comparability with the private sector since 1985, is due to go before the prime minister later this week. It is widely expected to recommend a big narrowing of the gap between senior public servants and company directors, especially for those civil servants on a salary of £50,000-plus at the bottom end of the scale.

The case for such a rise is strong. In big companies, earnings of £140,000 or more for full-time board members, and £250,000 or more for chief executives, are common. In the past seven years, while pay at the top of the private sector has almost doubled – up 96 per cent according to Hay Management Consultants, it incentives and bonuses are included – rises for top public servants have barely matched inflation. On top of that is the "Strathclyde" factor. Strathclyde is a Labour-controlled council which realises that it has to offer competitive salaries to get good people. The government is pushing even harder in this direction and its determination to introduce private sector methods into the public services is starting to release a small explosion in the pay of the new public sector bosses.

Mr Peter Griffiths, chief executive of Guy's Hospital, one of the first hospitals to acquire trust status under national health service reforms, now earns about £90,000, double what the gen-



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| 1988 | 128 | 133 | 112 | 114 | 115 |
| 1989 | 140 | 147 | 121 | 119 | 121 |
| 1990 | 154 | 162 | 132 | 128 | 141 |
| 1991 | 166 | 171 | 140 | 140 | 154 |
| 1992 | 177 | 186 | 146 | (182)* | (185)** |

* 30 per cent pay rise would bring into line with private sector highest decile.
** 50 per cent pay rise would bring into line with private sector highest decile.

eral manager of a large hospital earned five years ago. Mr John Mackintosh, head of the grant-maintained Oratory School, earns about £60,000, a possible benchmark for the heads of schools which are opting out of local education control under the government's education reforms. The most well-paid public servants of all are to be found among the heads of the Next Step agencies, quasi-autonomous public sector bodies, such as the Defence Research Agency, whose head, Mr John Chisholm, earns £140,000.

These salaries may be seen as desirable and even necessary to attract suitably qualified managers but they have severely upset the pay balance at the top of the public sector. Those covered by the Review Body – judges, senior civil servants and top military personnel – are not used to being outflanked on pay from within the public sector. There are, however, accustomed to being outflanked by the private sector. Figures col-

The case for a narrowing of differentials between senior public servants and company directors is strong

lated by the Public Finance Foundation, a pay research group, show that between 1985, the last important adjustment to top salaries, and last year, the pay of the highest earners in the Civil Service rose by 40 per cent and that of Grade Three civil servants – formerly called under-secretaries – the lowest paid in the review group, by 54 per cent. However, the top 10 per cent of non-manual workers in the private sector saw earnings rise by 71 per cent over the same period. Those figures may be distorted by a one-off private sector "catch-up" for top managers in the privatised utilities.

On the other hand, the figures also mask higher rises for the most senior executives in British industry, and exclude perquisites such as subsidised mortgages and company cars. Research for last year's Top Salaries Review Body found that the median salary, plus bonuses, of chief executives at private sector financial companies with turnover of more than £70m a year was £230,000

a year, more than twice the £104,000 earned by those covered by the Review Body.

Part of the difference between public and private sector salaries has been justified by superior pension benefits and job security enjoyed by the public servants. To counter this, the Association of First Division Civil Servants, the National Union of Civil and Public Servants and the Institute of Professional Managers and Specialists, which represent senior civil servants, have presented evidence to this year's Review Body based on a report by Coopers & Lybrand Deloitte, the accountancy firm.

The report says not all job turbulence in the private sector is a result of less secure employment. Job changes reflect a desire by private sector managers for wide experience, and head hunting by employers. "Even in the midst of recession the length of time on average between jobs does not seem to outweigh the length of time over which financial support is available," says the report.

The unions also argue that if the government wants more job flexibility between the private sector and the Civil Service, pay differentials will have to be narrowed.

However, even if the Review Body and the government were to accept this argument, and the case for a catch-up, there are equally strong pressures for resisting big pay rises.

First, pay rises for private sector executives have become much more modest in the past year, falling, according to Hay, to 7 per cent from a peak in 1988-89 of 20 per cent.

Second, the recession means that the problems experienced by public sector employers in recruiting and retaining staff in the late 1980s have faded.

The Treasury says there is no indication of a decline in the quality of candidates for fast stream entry – designed for high-flyers – to the Civil Service and that, apart from some specialist areas, there are an adequate number of high-flyers to fill Grade Three posts, the most junior civil service grade covered by the Review Body, and above.

The most powerful argument of all for the government to resist large rises is a feeling that they would send the wrong signals both to the private sector – where pay settlements have only recently fallen below German levels for the first time in many years – and the majority of public sector workers whose pay is determined by collective bargaining. They will only receive an increase of about 4 per cent, the rate of inflation, this year.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

Fax 071 573 5938. Letters transmitted should be clearly typed and not hand written. Please set fax for finest resolution

Lloyd's costs and assets base seen as root of problems

From Mr John D. Ingleton

Sir, You identify correctly the key issue for Lloyd's and its future, in your editorial "Lloyd's and its casualties" (June 19). Unless Lloyd's can build its capital base, it has no future – a truism for any business organisation.

My 11 years as a Lloyd's Name have led to an overall loss from my membership – with further losses to come. In aggregate, I have handed over money to the society for the dubious privilege of risking all the assets on which my family and I depend. Yet I do not face financial ruin and would prefer to remain a Name.

But the worldwide casualty insurance business has shown dreadful returns for its sources of capital in recent years – whether shareholders or private capital, as at Lloyd's. The House of Lords report on Lloyd's in May shows clearly that Lloyd's, the UK composite and the US insurers do not produce profits to match the risks being taken. There has been too much insurance capacity chasing too little worthwhile business – and the situation may well be continuing.

Why Lloyd's should believe it can attract corporate capital, when it cannot retain the capital it has already, escapes me. Yet, perhaps there are insurers who would prefer to have Lloyd's underwriters act for them rather than conduct the underwriting themselves. To attract this business, Lloyd's will have to demonstrate that its costs are competitive.

Lloyd's has come to believe that an annual salary of £100,000 should be commonplace for an active underwriter of a medium size syndicate and

syndicates believe they should take profit commissions of between 12 per cent and 20 per cent of profit, while Lloyd's brokers believe their commissions should always be at least 10 per cent of premiums payable. The whole Lloyd's infrastructure had become greedy and complacent.

But once sensible returns are in sight, risk capital will return from individuals as well as companies.

John D. Ingleton, Suite 31, 140 Park Lane, London W1Y 3AA

From Mr Alan J. Leboff

Sir, As an external Lloyd's Name I have so far gone along with David Coleridge's comment that Names "freely signed pieces of paper authorising membership of each Syndicate", despite my misgivings as to the expertise of my agents and the losses my children and I have suffered of £100,000 for 1988 and £200,000 for 1989, with (I am told) further losses to come at least for 1990, and have not joined in litigation despite being urged to do so.

However, at my rota interview I asked the same questions I had of my prospective agent: "What will membership cost me in fees etc, and (as I was wary of joint and several liability) what if other names on a syndicate cannot pay

their share of losses?" and received the same answers: to my second question, "each Name writes for themselves, not one for another". When my children joined subsequently the Outwaite problems were receiving wide publicity and at their rota they asked, "Is there any way we could end up paying for these other people's losses?" and were told unequivocally there was not.

The Council of Lloyd's has now decided that the market losses require that we should pay a levy, effectively retrospectively in that resignation which would not avoid it, which in real terms would cost us an additional £112,500 on top of our further losses to come.

This makes "not one for another" a travesty; I do not expect anyone else to pay our losses, but we did not join Lloyd's as captive providers of indefinite amounts of capital. Alan J. Leboff, Andelain, South Park Crescent, Gerrards Cross, Buckinghamshire SL9 8BT

From Mr Alan Smallbone

Sir, The answer to your leader's first question – "was there any wrongdoing?" – is "Yes: by past committees of Lloyd's and agents, acting in concert to suppress Lord Cromer's recommendations of 1969 – to favour their interests at Names' expense".

Lord Cromer deplored the incorporation and sale of agencies and recommended a deficit clause to discourage under-reserving, but above all he pointed out that Lloyd's was peculiarly ill-adapted to the underwriting of the very classes of business in which so many syndicates specialised – high excess catastrophe risks.

He pointed out that the tax regime applied to insurance companies facilitated the building of reserves and that Lloyd's needed similar treatment. He stated that tax changes were the responsibility of government and parliament too. Yet these essential needs were not made a principal plank of the Lloyd's Bill in 1982.

The reason is clear. Reserves can be made only from profits in good years, but anything which reduced the base on which agents could levy "profit" commissions would reduce the prices of underwriting agency shares.

Those Names who were placed by reckless agents on ultra high risk syndicates have a legitimate complaint against the rota committees who interviewed them if the chairman did not point out to them that Lord Cromer had long ago warned against such involvement, but that Lloyd's had deliberately failed to seek the legislative changes he suggested.

That is why agents and brokers should now contribute pound for pound with Names, to the exceptional central fund levy.

Alan Smallbone, 30 Temple Fortune Lane, London NW11 7UD

Champion of the amateur

From Mr Russell Jones

Sir, May I be allowed to add a word to Noll Goodwin's obituary (Arts, June 22) of Sir Charles Groves? It should not be forgotten that throughout his life Sir Charles was a vigorous champion of the amateur musician, conducting choirs and orchestras throughout the country and giving them the recognition they deserved for their service to the community. For eight years from 1972-1980 Sir Charles was the

Bad advice on County Hall

From Mr Christopher H. Burt

Sir, Now depressing to witness Dr John Ashworth, director of the London School of Economics, enthusiastically supported by the FT, urging the government to cancel the sale of County Hall to Shrayama Shokusan company in favour of the LSE. For two such illustrious parties to offer such advice, which is manifestly wrong in financial terms, is extraordinary.

Bad advice on County Hall

The FT and respected economic

ists spend much time urging the government to keep public spending under rigorous control. Then, your leading article of June 18 blandly refers to the proposed unnecessary expenditure of £120m as "modest".

We are assured the LSE is the foremost social science university in Britain, perhaps in Europe. If this is so, and if it is to continue to be so, its standing will be a function of the quality of the teaching staff and the students, and not the grandeur of its building. Christopher H. Burt, 82 Rue de la Paquette, 1050 Brussels

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The point of no return

If you are going to get fired, it is hard to imagine a more dramatic exit than that just made by Stephen Chao. Until a week ago, young Chao was one of the rising stars in Rupert Murdoch's media empire. Then he thought up this really great idea of how to grab his managers' attention and impress the boss at a conference in Colorado.

The newly named president of Fox Television stations had wanted to illustrate a point during a talk on censorship to managers from Murdoch's News Corp and Fox's parent. According to a report in the Los Angeles Times, Chao hired a male stripper to disrobe in front of the audience, although it was unclear what point he was trying to make. Whatever it came as a great embarrassment to Murdoch and his assorted guests – including US defense secretary Dick Cheney.

An executive told Murdoch told Chao that he was fired. "Sometimes the hardest job a captain has is to terminate his best lieutenant," Murdoch is reported as saying. "But one thing this company has to stand for is that there are limits." It may come as a surprise to readers of The Sun and the News of the World that Murdoch is a bit of a prude at heart.

Fun palace?

The "To let" signs came down last week from Rose Court, the controversial Southwark office block built on top of the remains of Shakespeare's Rose Theatre.

It was not, alas, because the building had found a tenant. Rather it was because a TV crew had moved into its top

floor to film "The Golden Hallel", a tale about an ambitious, ruthless headhunter to be screened by the BBC next spring. Ironically, it stars James Fox, one of those who stood arm-in-arm with Dame Peggy Ashcroft and Ian McKellen three years ago to prevent bulldozers destroying the theatre's remains.

This is not the first time that the empty building has been put to artistic uses. The developers' campaign to market it has included staging art and drama there, including a performance by an estate agent in sixteenth century costume of Shakespeare's words set to music. Surely, with such cultural credentials the office block should have a special appeal for the new heritage ministry? Despite a request by the local MP Simon Hughes for the ministry to consider the building, the Ministry of Fun has not yet even looked at it.

In absentia

No other European country goes in for the sport of royal gashing like Britain does. But it sounds as if Spain is about to suffer a minor outbreak. King Juan Carlos – sporty, simpatico and best remembered as the man who stopped the coup – is being accused of falling down on his public duties.

Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez, who is expected shortly to name a new foreign minister, told journalists last week that he had been unable to inform the king of his ministerial choice because the monarch was out of the country. The 54-year-old king, who was resting near St. Moritz, did return to see the Prime Minister briefly before heading back to Switzerland – with the result that he missed his father's 79th birthday party.



"Who are these top people?"

What has prompted even more tongue-wagging is that the monarch will for the first time in years not attend the annual bullfight this afternoon organised by the Madrid press association; worse still, he has cancelled at short notice the traditional palace garden party held to celebrate St John's day on June 24.

In yesterday's El Mundo newspaper Jorge de Esteban, a distinguished constitutionalist, broke hostile new ground in the domestic treatment of the royals by suggesting a regency to cover the king's absences. De Esteban sternly quoted Horace at the crown: *Ezer eris si recte facies*.

Smart choice

Big Italian companies have a habit of hiring ex-diplomats. Even so, there is some surprise at the speed with which Ferruzzi/Montedison, Italy's chemicals and foodstuffs conglomerate, has grabbed Giandomenico Picco, the UN hostage negotiator.

made a name for himself as an expert behind-the-scenes negotiator. He played a central role in obtaining in great secret the release of hostages from Lebanon, and indeed the news of his switch to Ferruzzi comes precisely when the last remaining western hostages, two Germans, have been freed. Picco is expected to be based primarily in New York and help beef up the group's US profile which declined when the flamboyant Raul Gardini was running Ferruzzi.

Interesting to see whether he makes as big a mark in the private sector as he did in the public sector.

Gone sailing

One might think that Tony Ryan, the hard-working chairman of GEA, would have ordered all his top executives to return to base to discuss how to salvage the company's credibility after it had to cancel its global stock market debut last week. But if he has, then Colin Barrington, chief executive of GEA Capital, has a more pressing engagement.

He was reported yesterday to be "watching the sun rise over Galway Bay" at the helm of Whirlpool, the lead boat in the Round Ireland Yacht Race which set off from Wicklow last Saturday. But the 46-year-old Barrington, who holds more GEA shares than any director save Ryan, was said by the race organizers "to be keeping very quiet on the VHF radio" – out of earshot not only of the following boats but presumably Ryan as well.

Clanger of month

In Flander, Blackheath Concert Halls in south London presents Il Trovatore, featuring – the programme promises – "The Avri Chorus".

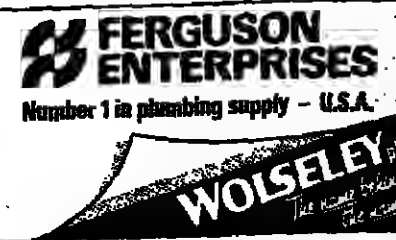
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FINANCIAL TIMES

Tuesday June 23 1992



De Klerk flies in as ANC calls crisis meeting

By Philip Gawth
in Johannesburg

SOUTH AFRICAN president F.W. de Klerk announced yesterday he would cut short a visit to Spain and return in time to chair a cabinet meeting tomorrow which will address the country's political turmoil.

Mr de Klerk's move follows a decision by the African National Congress, which on Sunday cut off bilateral talks with the government, to convene an emergency national executive committee meeting today.

The organisation attacked Mr de Klerk yesterday for his insensitivity in leaving the country at this time.

The ANC will discuss its response to last week's massacre of 42 people at Boipatong, near Johannesburg. It blames the attack on the Zulu-based Inkatha movement, and is incensed that three more were killed on Saturday by police who opened fire on a crowd soon after Mr de Klerk's arrival.

The ANC is expected either to suspend temporarily its participation in the Convention for a Democratic South Africa - the constitutional negotiating forum made up of 19 political parties - or to make further participation contingent on how the government responds to the massacre.

Financial markets in South

African reacted nervously yesterday to the deteriorating political mood. Worst affected was the financial rand, the investment currency for foreigners, which fell by 6.7 per cent from Friday's close to finish at R3.84 to the US dollar. The discount to the commercial rand widened to 27 per cent, the highest it has been this year.

On the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, the overall index closed at 3,638, down 42 points or more than 1 per cent.

The ANC executive meeting comes against the backdrop of the worst crisis in the negotiation process since the unbanning of the ANC in February 1990. There were, however, hints from both sides yesterday that they may be seeking to pull back from the brink.

Mr Tertius Delpoit, the government's spokesman on Codesa, said it would be a "tragedy" if the ANC was to pull out of the forum. "That would be putting us back a lot... we would be very disappointed if the ANC would entertain the idea."

Mr Delpoit said an invitation to the ANC by Mr P.W. Botha, foreign minister and acting president in Mr de Klerk's absence, to join the government in talks was an effort to move forward.

Professor Kadar Asmal, a member of the ANC executive, said the organisation remained



A protestor carries a message for President F.W. de Klerk during a demonstration in Johannesburg yesterday.

"firmly committed" to negotiations but added that the way out of the current impasse was to move quickly to an interim government.

Investment analysts think the equity market will probably continue to move lower until there is evidence that Codesa is back on track. Mr Mike Soekoe, chief dealer at stockbroker Simpson McKie, said it had been a very nervous day with volumes low and few people keen to buy. He said that even the weaker financial rand, making stocks cheaper in dollar terms, had not enticed

foreign investors into buying.

One dealer said he did not expect heavy selling unless there was complete anarchy. The JSE is dominated by institutions which not only take the long view but are also constrained in their investment options by exchange controls.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Mr Steve Tshwete, ANC sports spokesman, both called into question South Africa's participation in the Barcelona Olympics.

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Stocks, Back page, Section II

Italian banks lift prime rate to 14%

By Robert Graham in Rome

SEVERAL Italian commercial banks raised their prime rate - at which they lend to leading customers - from 13.5 per cent to 14 per cent yesterday in reaction to a series of increases in short-term money rates by the Bank of Italy last week.

The central bank's moves were aimed at shoring up the lira. Pressure on the currency eased slightly yesterday as the markets had time to make a more measured judgement of the impact of the Irish referendum vote last week in favour of the Maastricht treaty for closer European union.

After the Danes rejected the treaty in a referendum at the start of the month, businessmen and bankers worried that the process of closer European integra-

tion would be slowed and the resolve of the Italian authorities to tackle the country's deteriorating public finances would be weakened.

Consequently, the lira has come under heavy pressure and the Bank of Italy has had to intervene both in the foreign exchange markets by selling D-Marks and by raising domestic interest rates.

Yesterday the lira was being traded at L755.9 against the D-Mark. This compares with the L765 floor against the D-Mark permitted under Italy's commitment to the narrow band of the European Exchange Rate Mechanism.

Early on Friday, when the result of the Irish referendum was still uncertain, the lira was being quoted at L757.8 against

the D-Mark.

Then, as the result clarified, the currency strengthened to L768.5.

The cost of the central bank's support operations in the foreign exchange markets during the past two weeks is not known. In supporting in the domestic market, the bank has been obliged to raise short-term interest rates in the past two weeks by more than 2.5 points.

By last weekend the rates paid on short-term repurchase agreements with the commercial banks had reached almost 15 per cent.

The delicate state of the lira and such high interest rates have added urgency to the consultations of Mr Giuliano Amato, the deputy leader of the Socialist party, to form a new government.

He was given the task last Thursday and hopes to present a programme to parliament by the end of this week.

Mr Amato will be obliged to come up with a quick mini-budget to cope with the public sector deficit, which has on current projections overshoot the 1992 budget estimates.

Instead of a public sector deficit held down to L128,000bn (\$107bn), latest projections suggest it will reach L175,000bn by the end of the year. The new government must thus find ways to obtain an extra L47,000bn through raising revenues or cutting spending.

World Stock Markets
Back page, Section II
Government bonds, Page 54

French parliament votes on Maastricht

By Ian Davidson in Paris

FRANCE will today take a decisive stride towards ratifying the Maastricht treaty on European union, when it completes the requisite revision of the constitution.

After six weeks of debate in the National Assembly and the Senate, the two houses of parliament meet today in a special joint sitting in the Palace of Versailles. They are expected to vote heavily in favour.

Despite fierce resistance from a large section of the Gaullist RPR party, and total opposition from the Communists, the constitutional amendments last week secured large majorities in both houses. The Senate voted 192 to 117, and the National Assembly 388 to 43.

The addition of these votes suggests the government should have no difficulty in securing the necessary three-fifths majority in today's joint session of 866 parliamentarians.

Coming on top of the big majority in last week's Irish referendum, a successful vote in the French congress will be an important morale booster for the European Community summit in Lisbon this week.

But even a comfortable majority in today's congress will still give no guarantee that the treaty itself will be ratified when it is put to a popular referendum in the autumn.

All recent public opinion polls have shown regular support for Maastricht; the most recent survey, published over the weekend, gave 51 per cent in favour and

only 16 per cent against.

This is a wider margin of support than in previous polls, and should augur well for the referendum.

Government officials are acutely aware, however, that support for the treaty could yet be jeopardised by the deep personal unpopularity of President Francois Mitterrand.

A poll at the weekend showed a further drop in Mr Mitterrand's rating, with only 38 per cent approving of him and 55 per cent disapproving.

The only consolation for the government is that the Maastricht debate has produced a deep split between the Gaullists and their regular conservative partners in the Centrist and UDF parties.

These parties last week voted

overwhelmingly in favour of the constitutional revision, and their leaders have undertaken to campaign in favour of ratification of the treaty.

By contrast, the Gaullists are divided between those who are ambivalent over the Maastricht Treaty, and those who are openly hostile; last week they either voted against the constitutional revision (in the Senate) or abstained (in the National Assembly).

This disagreement over the EC, in which the Gaullists have denounced their putative partners for "collaborating" with the government, is bound to continue at least until the referendum, and may handicap the conservative parties in the months before the general election next March.

Tokyo stock market falls

Continued from Page 1

and life assurance companies. Mr Nobuhiko Kaneda, a general manager at Daiwa Securities, the stockbroker, estimated that Nikkei's drop would lead to some banks having difficulty in meeting future international standards of capital adequacy laid down by the Bank for International Settlements. The BIS requires Japanese banks to have a minimum ratio of capital to assets of 8 per cent by April 1993.

For life companies, declining portfolio values squeeze their ability to make payments to policyholders who have invested in savings schemes. Nippon Life,

the largest insurer, said yesterday: "There are some life companies which have most of their portfolio profits wiped out."

Meanwhile, data published yesterday gave investors every reason to feel concern for the state of the economy. Figures published by the Bank of Japan showed the money supply in May grew by just 1.1 per cent, the lowest on record. The outturn puts in doubt the central bank's forecast of 2 per cent growth in the April-June quarter.

The government's Management and Co-ordination Agency said household spending in April fell 0.5 per cent in April, the first fall in four months.

Sarajevo mortars kill eight

Continued from Page 1

of Sarajevo Radio, said three children were among those killed in the sudden mortar attack. "They were playing on the streets. We can't keep our children always locked up in underground shelters. People had left their basements to get water, newspapers or their salaries from the bank."

Ms Shannon Boyd, a spokeswoman for United Nations peacekeeping forces, said the news was discouraging. "We're in a rather painful holding pattern." A UN plan to reopen the city airport for humanitarian flights collapsed at the weekend.

In New York, UN officials expressed concern about further violations of the ceasefire and the fact that three Canadian UN observers had been wounded, one seriously. However, there was no immediate suggestion of further action by the Security Council.

General Lewis Mackenzie, the UN sector commander of Sarajevo, said UN forces would not restart work on the airport until a ceasefire held for at least 48 hours.

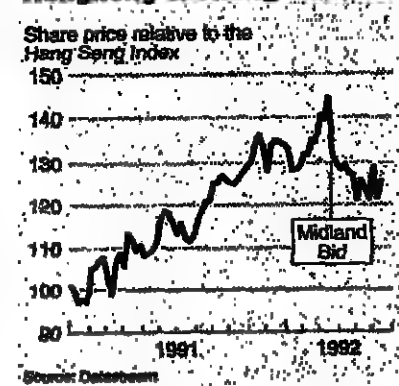
"There are still obvious breaches of the ceasefire going on fairly regularly... Even by Bosnian standards we don't have a ceasefire." He said the opening of the airport was only one of the steps needed to relieve Sarajevo.

THE LEX COLUMN

London's liquid liability

FT-SE Index: 2550.3 (-34.5)

Hongkong & Shanghai Bank



Yet HSBC itself has underperformed the Hang Seng index by 14 per cent since the bid was revealed, partly due to the disclosure of its \$780m exposure to Olympia & York. The merger may bring some synergy benefits in areas such as foreign exchange, but Midland holders will face exposure to Chinese politics, as Cable & Wireless holders found after the Tiananmen Square massacre. More immediate worries are the impact on Hong Kong of deadlock in the Uruguay Round and of Japan's economic slowdown.

Some of this may be forgotten in the initial euphoria as HSBC joins the Footsie. A place in the index does not normally confer lasting outperformance, however. That could provide a further opportunity for those investors who remain suspicious of the merger concept to sell into strength.

UK economy

The 2800m positive swing in the balance of payments between April and May is less encouraging than it appears. Take out the oil and erratic items and the visible trade balance is in much the same rut as it has been for most of the past year. Besides, it is difficult to know what constitutes good news on trade. In volume terms, imports were up only 4 per cent in the three months to May compared with 6 per cent in the three months to April, but the drop owes much to a slowdown in imports of basic materials, semi-manufactures and capital goods.

If that suggests manufacturers are lowering their sights on the recovery, it is in contrast with a continuing quarterly volume rise in imports of passenger cars and consumer goods.

The explanation may be that prolonged recession has indeed left the UK with a supply side problem. British manufacturers increasingly doubt not only the timing of recovery, but their ability to exploit it when it finally appears.

Against that background, the continuing volume gain in exports looks suspicious. Unit labour costs have fallen sharply in the UK, but exporters seem condemned to charging ever higher prices while those of imports have been falling, especially for manufactured goods. The overall picture suggests industry continues to labour under an over-valued real exchange rate, in which case exports cannot run at record levels indefinitely. One has to wonder how many are already being won at the expense of margin.

South Africa

It appears there was some limited intervention by the Reserve Bank of South Africa yesterday to support the financial rand. Those responsible, though, probably felt as helpless as if they had been using a pea-shooter to attack an elephant. Prompted by the formal suspension of the country's peace process over the weekend, the investment currency for foreigners slid 7 per cent in early trading, ending the day at a 27 per cent discount to its commercial counterpart. That means it is weaker than at any point since the March referendum, eloquently reflecting foreigners' worsening perceptions of political risk.

The reality is that the central bank's surprise decision earlier this year to start intervening in the financial rand market - hailed as an important milestone in exchange rate policy and a step towards ultimate abandonment of the two tier system - is a policy for more stable times. Mr Mandela may be forced in the end to return to the negotiating table; in the meantime markets are bound to take flight from his rhetoric and the graphic television pictures of township violence. The Reserve Bank can smooth short term fluctuations - and even nudge the discount in the right direction - but it cannot halt the underlying trend.

It is always possible that Swiss and German investors will be tempted back into high yielding bonds at current levels. But the appetite for South African equities will surely be dulled. By all accounts the recent Liberty Life and Sappi placings in Europe went reasonably well. They may be the last for some time.

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June 16, 1992

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Smith Barney, Harris Upham & Co. S.G. Warburg Securities Wertheim Schroder & Co.
Advest, Inc. Robert W. Baird & Co. William Blair & Company J.C. Bradford & Co.
Cazenove Inc. Cowen & Company Craigie Incorporated Dain Bosworth
First Albany Corporation First of Michigan Corporation Gruntal & Co., Incorporated
Edward D. Jones & Co. Ladenburg, Thalmann & Co. Inc. Legg Mason Wood Walker
McDonald & Company Morgan Keegan & Company, Inc. The Ohio Company
Oppenheimer & Co., Inc. Parker/Hunter Piper Jaffray Inc.
Rauscher Pierce Refenes, Inc. Raymond James & Associates, Inc.
The Robinson-Humphrey Company, Inc. Roney & Co. Stifel, Nicolaus & Company
Sutro & Co. Incorporated Tucker Anthony Wheat First Butter & Singer

| World Weather | | °C | °F | °C | °F | °C | °F | °C | °F | °C | °F | °C | °F | °C | °F | °C | °F | °C | °F | °C | °F |
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INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE

MGN banks agree £260m two-year credit facility

By Raymond Snoddy

THE immediate financial pressure on Mirror Group Newspapers eased last night with the announcement that the company's banks had finalised a £260m (\$431m) financial package.

The deal comes on the eve of the release of the UK newspaper group's first accounts since its flotation on the London Stock Exchange last May. The £260m refinancing has been provided by a small group of banks led by National Westminster and Midland Bank. Leasing finance of around £180m also remains in place.

MGN, which includes the Daily Mirror, Sunday Mirror, The People, Scottish Daily Record and Sunday Mail, said

yesterday the two-year credit facility "strengthens the group and provides financial stability for the future".

MGN has been trading profitably in spite of Mr Robert Maxwell's death, and is expected to announce trading profits of around £80m today.

Money missing from the MGN accounts, losses suffered by its pension funds and a series of Maxwell deals charged to the MGN accounts are likely to lead to losses of around £300m.

The costs range from a loss on the sale of a stake in Quebecor Printing, the Canadian commercial printing company, and a £24m loan attributable to MGN for financing and consultancy charges paid to banks. Since December, the major-

ity stake in the newspaper group, owned by Mr Maxwell's private interests, has been in administration. The stake is effectively controlled by a group of banks because MGN shares were pledged as collateral for loans.

Mr John Talbot, of Arthur Andersen, administrators to the private Maxwell interests, has said he has no plans to sell the stake.

Today's accounts should give some indication about the financial health of MGN.

The company wants its shares, suspended at 12p in early December, to be relisted, although this is thought unlikely for at least another two weeks. A relisting would almost certainly lead to a sharp fall in share price.

BSN to take control of Belgian brewer

By Alice Rawsthorn in Paris

BSN, the French food group, is expanding its interests in Belgium by taking control of Alken-Maes, one of the largest Belgian breweries which produces Maes Pils and Cristal.

The French company is increasing its stake in Alken-Maes, which had sales of BFR5.73bn (\$177m) in 1991, from 50 to 75 per cent. For BSN, already Europe's second biggest brewing group, the Belgian deal forms part of a programme of increasing its international beer interests, which provided a tenth of its BFR6.6bn (\$12.65bn) group sales last year.

Earlier this year, BSN strengthened its position in the Spanish beer market by buying a 24 per cent stake in San Miguel, one of the country's best known beer brands. BSN already had substantial a brewing business in Spain due to its 33 per cent holding in the Mahou brewery.

BSN, under its veteran chairman, Mr Antoine Riboud, has become one of the most aggressive players in the increasingly competitive European food market by developing an international portfolio of products in sectors such as mineral water and biscuits.

Earlier this year, it emerged as one of the leading players in the battle for Perrier, the French mineral water and cheese company, by siding with its old rival, Nestlé of Switzerland, in a bid to win control of Volvic mineral water.

Cockerill Sambre, the Belgian steelmaker, expects to make a profit at both group and parent company level for the whole of 1992, Reuter reports from Brussels.

Mr Jean Gaudin, chairman, told yesterday's annual and extraordinary shareholders' meetings that the first half of the year had been fairly positive and "we have made a profit".

In late April, Cockerill reported that its 1991 group net profit fell sharply to BFR3.6bn from BFR12.47bn in 1990.

Dissent resurfaces at Hoesch meeting

By Quentin Peel in Bonn

SHAREHOLDERS in Hoesch, the Dortmund-based German steelmaker, yesterday bowed to the inevitable and gave the green light to their takeover by the rival Essen-based Fried. Krupp group.

Yet it was not without angry criticism of the whole "shotgun wedding" from the floor at yesterday's seven-hour annual meeting.

The 850 shareholders in attendance voted by a large majority to do away with the company rule that a single shareholder can only exercise a maximum voting right of 15 per cent. That allowed Fried. Krupp, led by Mr Gerhard Cromme, the chief executive

who plotted the whole campaign, to use the full 62 per cent of the capital it has acquired, since launching the "forced merger" bid last October.

Mr Cromme and three other Krupp executives were elected to the Hoesch supervisory board, and Mr Cromme was expected to be elected chairman last night.

The resistance to the merger came especially from Hoesch employee-shareholders, according to the VWD news agency, after they gave notice of no fewer than 90 contrary resolutions to the proposals of the Hoesch supervisory board.

Accusations from the floor were directed at both Mr Kajo Neukirchen, chief executive of

Hoesch, and Dr Herbert Zapp of Deutsche Bank, the chairman of the supervisory board.

The merger was described as "an unnecessary forced marriage", and the Hoesch executives were blamed for failing to defend the company from the onslaught from Essen, according to VWD.

One shareholder described the Krupp merger as "an assault on the self-esteem of the people of Dortmund", underlining the furious local rivalries aroused by the deal.

There was also anger that at information given at the meeting that Mr Neukirchen, only appointed as Hoesch chief executive last year, will still receive more than DM6m, the full remaining value of his five-

year contract, if he leaves the company early after the merger, the agency reported.

The dissident shareholders demanded binding guarantees for the preservation of jobs at Hoesch. Mr Neukirchen insisted that the "realisation of synergies" from the merger would not result in any significant job cuts at Hoesch "in the foreseeable future".

He said the company had also started the year with an operating result standing DM80m (\$50.6m) above the same period of 1991. In 1991, Hoesch managed to make a profit of just DM126.8m on turnover of DM13.1bn. The shareholders will receive an unchanged dividend of DM10 on each DM50 share.

Two French bank heads replaced

By Alice Rawsthorn

THE HEADS of two of France's nationalised banks, *Crédit Industriel et Commercial* (CIC) and *Société Marseillaise de Crédit* (SMC), have been replaced in the French government's regular three-yearly review of the senior management of state-controlled companies.

Mr Jean-Pierre Aubert, 49, has replaced Mr François Carles, 65, as chairman of CIC, the federation of regional banks controlled by *Groupes des Assurances Nationales* (GAN),

the public sector insurance group. Mr Aubert has for the past three years been chairman of *CIC-Paris*.

GAN took control of CIC in 1989, the year that Mr Carles became chairman. The takeover followed a turbulent period for the bank which had been heavily exposed to a number of bad loans including those to the collapsed *Al Saudi Banque*.

The CIC banks have since undergone radical rationalisation to try to control costs and improve profitability. This programme is expected to con-

tinue under Mr Aubert's chairmanship. CIC recently reported a 12 per cent fall in profits for last year to FF774m (\$137.3m).

The new chairman of SMC will be Mr Jean Matouk, 54, taking over from Mr Jean-Paul Escande, who has headed the bank since 1982. Mr Matouk, a former adviser on economic and financial affairs to President François Mitterrand, is now head of the *Caisse Nationale de l'Energie*.

SMC, which is under-capitalised, fell into the red in 1991 by moving from a profit of FF11m into a loss of FF17.4m.

Computer groups in European venture

By Alan Cane

EUROPE'S three remaining indigenous large computer manufacturers have formed a joint venture to develop trans-European systems for public authorities.

Gruppo Bull of France, Olivetti of Italy and Siemens-Nixdorf of Germany said yesterday they had created a new company, *Trans European Information Systems* (TEIS), which will be headquartered in Brussels.

TEIS, which will have the legal structure of a European

economic interest group, is a further step in a scheme to build a European-wide computer network - the "European Nervous System" - which the three manufacturers have been exploring for over a year. They have already established several laboratories to work on technical aspects of the system.

The European Nervous System originated in an idea floated by the European Commission but has been set on by Europe's beleaguered computer manufacturers.

The two major benefits are

an increase in sales of data processing equipment through a form of public procurement which could not be seen as financial aid and the opportunity to gain valuable experience of large scale projects. They complain that US computer companies have benefited greatly from their involvement in large public sector and defence projects.

TEIS will provide local authorities with applications that improve the availability of information technology services within the framework of the single European market.

Swedish bank in leadership change

By Robert Taylor in Stockholm

GOTA, Sweden's fourth-largest commercial bank, yesterday announced the appointment of a new president and chief executive from September 1.

The move follows last week's announcement of a SKR13.5bn (\$2.4bn) five-year financial insurance plan designed to stabilise the bank in the face of mounting financial troubles caused by credit losses this year estimated at around SKR4bn in 1992.

Mr Per Lundberg, at present deputy chief executive of Investor, the investment company controlled by the Wallenberg family, will take charge of

the bank. He will also take a leading position in the insurance giant Trygg-Hansa SPP, which is the dominant shareholder in Gota.

Most of Mr Lundberg's business career has been within the Wallenberg empire. He began work with Stockholm's Enskilda Bank in 1969. After its emergence in 1972 as Skandinaviska Enskilda Banken, he became head of company analysis and credit administration. From 1979 until last year, Mr Lundberg was chief executive of Providentia, the Wallenberg-controlled investment company that was recently merged with Investor.

Mr Lundberg also sits on the boards of a number of the Wal-

enberg companies, including Atlas Copco and Saab Automobile.

Mr Bjorn Sprangare, chief executive of Trygg-Hansa SPP, said Mr Lundberg's long experience with SES and Providentia, as well as his work on the boards of industrial companies, made him well-qualified to lead Gota.

Mr Lundberg replaces Mr Gabriel Urwitz who has been Gota's president and chief executive since 1989.

In a statement, Mr Urwitz said it had been important to give Gota a stronger base for the future. Having achieved this goal, he added, it was the right moment for a change of leadership at the bank.

Hungary launches third stock market tier

By Nicholas Denton in Budapest

HUNGARY yesterday launched a third tier to its stock market in an attempt to bolster interest in the Budapest market and draw over-the-counter trading onto the market floor.

Rules come into effect this week, on the second anniversary of the Budapest Stock Exchange, setting up the new category, the Free Market, for public securities which do not meet full listing requirements. The latest category allows any BSE member, rather than just the issuing company, to

introduce a security onto the new market once it has met a simplified set of requirements.

Trading is expected to begin next week but brokers do not expect the new market to build up momentum until the second half of this year.

Shares in up to 40 public companies, including the main commercial banks, and 250 bonds are candidates for the new market. That compares with 21 listed shares and only one company bond with a full BSE listing.

The rigour of full listing requirements has deterred many companies from the BSE.

The exchange estimates that between 80 and 90 per cent of securities trading takes place outside the official market.

With own turnover languishing the BSE is keen to inject new interest. Trading volume for all securities in May was disappointing FF2.8bn (\$3m).

The authorities had long planned a third market but were only able to move ahead with it after the opening of a new trading floor last month.

Postabank is to raise FF3bn via a public offer of shares, Reuter reports. It will offer shares at par between June 26 and October 16.

OMV facing sharp drop in earnings

By Eric Frey in Vienna

OMV, the Austrian oil company, is facing a sharp drop in 1992 earnings following a loss in the first five months of the year.

The company, which is majority-controlled by the state holding group Austrian Industries (AI), is said to have suffered a Sch100m (\$9m) shortfall in the January-May period, mostly because of losses at its plastics subsidiary PCD.

The fiscal year's poor start could cut the full-year operating profit to about Sch1bn from Sch1.7bn last year, which would damage AI's chances to undertake its scheduled initial public stock flotation in 1993, industry sources say.

OMV generates nearly half of its parent company's annual earnings. An OMV spokesman declined to confirm the figures, which were reported in the Austrian press.

For the first quarter, OMV reported a loss of Sch300m, but the company's results usually improve in the course of the year.

Industry sources say OMV still aims for an operating profit of Sch1.5bn for 1992, which would permit the company to keep its dividend at Sch20 a share.

"NBK... perhaps one of the closest things the Arab world has to a blue-chip financial institution - is clearly not about to lie down."

| | 1990 (US\$ millions) | 1991 (US\$ millions) |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Profit | 177.1 | 155.5 |
| Shareholders' Funds | 980.1 | 1015.4 |
| Demand and Time Deposits | 6,786.2 | 6,305.9 |
| Total Assets | 12,807.2 | 10,176.6 |
| Capital Adequacy Ratio (BIS) | 14.4% | 15.2% |

1990 and 1991

NBK has long been recognised as the premier Arab bank. The unprecedented challenges which the bank has overcome during the past two years have, without doubt, reaffirmed that position.

Now NBK looks forward to celebrating its 40th Anniversary in 1992. It does so with a strong equity base, a sound balance sheet and resilient profitability.

In Kuwait NBK has the largest network of fully operational branches; and these are

complemented by a thriving international operation in eight of the world's major financial centres.

With a clear strategic mission and a strong and stable management team, NBK is able to face the future with purpose and confidence.

NBK's unparalleled reputation makes it the ideal choice for all banking needs in Kuwait and the Arab world, and a respected partner in all major financial centres.



بنك الكويت الوطني س.ك.ا
NATIONAL BANK OF KUWAIT SAK

The Premier Arab Bank, Worldwide

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LIBANON: NBK Bank SA (Liban) 600000000, PO Box 11-5722, Beirut, Lebanon. Tel: (961215) 363495, 368560



Cardiff Automobile
Receivables
Securitisation (UK) plc

£228 million
Floating Rate Notes
Due 1995

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that on the next interest payment date, being 28th June 1992, the available Redemption Funds have been determined to be £5,782,515.14, and therefore Notes of a principal value of £5,782,515.14 will be redeemed at par in accordance with the procedures of Euroclear and Cedeat. Following redemption of the allocated Notes the principal value of the remaining Notes outstanding will be £311,840,000.

Chartered Bank Limited
Agent Bank

U.S. \$150,000,000
MARINE MIDLAND
BANKS, INC.

Floating Rate
Subordinated Notes Due 2008

Interest Rate: 5% per annum
Interest Period: 22nd June 1992 to 22nd September 1992

Interest Accrues from 22nd September 1992
per U.S. \$100,000 Note U.S. \$134.17
per U.S. \$50,000 Note U.S. \$67.08

Chartered Bank Limited
Agent

OMNIUM DE DÉVELOPPEMENT

a subsidiary of

COMPAGNIE FINANCIÈRE SUCRES ET DENRÉES

an international commodity trading
and agricultural products group
has sold its majority interest in

EMPRESS INTERNATIONAL, LTD.

a leading U.S. importer of frozen shellfish
and other frozen seafood products
to
a private U.S. investment group.

The undersigned acted as financial advisor
to Omnium de Développement in this
transaction.

Fredericks Michael
& Co. Incorporated

New York City

June 1992

HAYS PLC has acquired

The FRIL Group of Companies
(Barré SA, TAC, GLB)
Paris, France

The undersigned initiated this transaction and
assisted HAYS PLC in its completion

CORPORATE FINANCE INTERNATIONAL, INC.

CFI is a joint venture between

3i Corporate Finance Ltd. and Downer & Company
Boston Paris



(Incorporated in the Republic of Korea with limited liability)

US\$100,000,000

Floating Rate Notes Due 1997
(Redeemable at the option of the Issuer on 1997)

In accordance with the provisions of the Floating Rate Notes,
notice is hereby given as follows:

Interest Period: 22nd June, 1992 to 22nd December, 1992 (183 days)

Rate of Interest: 5-1/4% per annum

Coupon Amount: US\$1,334.38
(per note of US\$500,000)
US\$1,343.75
(per note of US\$500,000)

Agent



LTCB Asia Limited

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES AND FINANCE

National Bank of Kuwait regains vigour after surviving Gulf crisis

The first full set of results since the invasion suggests NBK is stronger than ever, writes David Barchard

WHEN Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, the emirate's banking system was shattered. But within a few months of the invasion, National Bank of Kuwait (NBK), the largest Kuwaiti bank, was up and running. In May this year, NBK published results for the combined years of 1990-91, its first full set of figures since the invasion. They are impressive by any standards.

Though group assets have fallen by 21 per cent since 1989 to \$10.17bn, profits of \$155.5m are 32 per cent higher and - to judge by the strength of its capital base - NBK looks even more muscular than it did before the invasion.

Its risk-to-assets ratio has risen from 14.4 per cent before the invasion to 15.2 per cent in

May. By the standards of most banks in North America and Europe, this suggests almost excessive caution. But NBK takes the view that it lives in a hazardous part of the world and needs a stronger capital base than western banks.

Just how hazardous was shown on August 2 1990 when Iraqi troops marched into Kuwait City. By a happy coincidence, NBK's chairman, Mr Mohamed Abdul Mohsin Al-Kharafi, and most of its directors were in London that day, as was Mr Ibrahim Dabboud, its chief general manager.

As a result, there was never any question about the validity of decisions taken in exile, and lines of authority inside the bank were never in question.

By 10.30am on the morning of the invasion, the bank's board had sent out messages worldwide, revoking all the powers of the Kuwait-based operations. At that point, about half the bank's assets and 65 per cent of the loan portfolio was outside Kuwait.

Even so, in the immediate aftermath of the invasion, the bank's management had to battle desperately on three fronts. One was the struggle to get freezing orders against Iraqi and Kuwaiti banks in western countries lifted so that its branches outside Kuwait could function normally. It took three days to get the US authorities to lift their order and a week before a similar order in the UK was removed.

Meanwhile, the bank's staff had to cope with thousands of customers stranded outside the country with traveller's cheques and credit cards which no longer worked. Not surprisingly, many of them quickly switched to banks based in western countries.

NBK's branches never formally closed down during the days of the freeze, but they were at a considerable disadvantage when handling customer needs. "We lost quite a few customers in the first few weeks after the invasion," NBK says.

Since then, it has regained much of the lost business and taken on new customers, largely as Kuwaiti customers of the country's other banks

shifted to it.

The third and trickiest problem was to regain access to its records housed in its head office in Kuwait City. Computer records were quietly collected and driven out of Kuwait and into Jordan via Iraq by courageous employees. Within a few months, all the bank's records were reunited at its temporary headquarters in London.

There followed months in which NBK's prime concern was to remain liquid and ensure that the rest of the international banking system could see that it was making its payments on time. Cut off from its traditional funding base of customers' deposits, it

sold assets furiously, shedding much of its loan portfolio and commercial paper to keep up with commitments.

In December 1990, NBK published interim results. These showed that the bank in exile had total assets of \$5.6bn, about 43 per cent of its pre-invasion size. By then, NBK had two strategies in place.

The first strategy was designed to ensure it could operate indefinitely in exile if Kuwait remained under Iraqi control. The other was to start making tentative preparations for the work that would be needed once a return to Kuwait City took place.

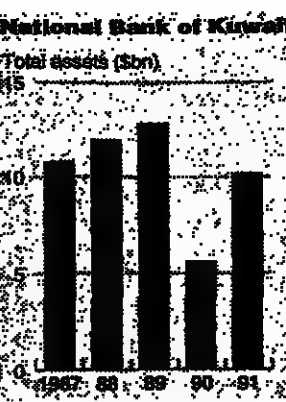
As it turned out, there had been little physical damage to its Kuwait head office. A new

mainframe computer was installed and the bank began functioning again in its old headquarters.

But the environment in which it operated had changed dramatically. The Kuwaiti government confiscated Kuwaiti banks' hidden reserves and collateral. Along with other banks, NBK had to accept government bonds in exchange for its domestic loan portfolios.

It also lost about 100 staff as part of the general exodus of Palestinians from Kuwait after the war. Mr Dabboud, the chief general manager and the driving force in the bank, is Palestinian. He remained in London until eight months after the war's end.

A post-war strategic review



of its future concluded that NBK's existing strategy as a regional niche player should continue unchanged. "We are fully back to normal, even if we are a bit smaller," NBK says.

GE and Hitachi expand joint venture activities

By Andrew Baxter

GENERAL Electric of the US and Hitachi of Japan have announced an expansion of their long-standing co-operative agreements, opening up new opportunities for GE to export power transmission and distribution technology to Japan.

The two companies said yesterday they had entered into long-term co-operative agreements designed to strengthen their competitive position in the utility transmission and distribution market.

The agreements extend for another 10 years the companies' joint venture, launched in 1977, to market high-voltage

breakers in the US. The venture will change its name from High Voltage Breakers to GE-Hitachi HVBB.

The new agreement also allows GE to access the Japanese market with its transmission and distribution equipment, and provides for the sharing of technology.

Obtaining access to the Japanese transmission and distribution market is a significant boost for GE, complementing the position it has already established in power generating equipment. GE is prime contractor on Tokyo Electric Power's 2,900MW combined cycle plant, the largest in the world, which is due for completion in the mid-1990s.

Chevron signals interest in Kazakhstan pipeline project

By Alan Friedman in New York

CHEVRON, the fourth-largest US oil and gas company, has signed a memorandum of understanding expressing its interest in joining a consortium that is planning to build a pipeline to transport oil from the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan.

The San Francisco-based company stressed yesterday it was not yet a formal partner in the consortium, which is led by the government of Oman. Chevron added it would only consider joining the consortium once the pipeline had been constructed.

Chevron is, however, already deeply involved in the exploration for oil in Kazakhstan, having last month signed an agree-

ment with the republic that could lead to the multi-billion dollar development of an area covering about 4,000 sq km.

Oman, which announced the pipeline plan, said the completion cost could range between \$700m and \$1.6bn, depending on the route chosen from Kazakhstan. The pipeline plan calls for the shipment of oil from the former Soviet republic to world markets along one of eight possible routes - these could run to the Mediterranean, the Black Sea or the Persian Gulf.

Oman and Kazakhstan last week signed an accord to form the pipeline consortium. Officials in the energy industry say Chevron is just one of several possible consortium partners being canvassed by the two governments.

Corning held back by charge

By Karen Zagor in New York

CORNING, the US specialty glass group, yesterday turned in underlying second-quarter earnings of \$88.4m, or 47 cents a share, a 16 per cent advance on the same period last year.

However, net income was reduced by a pre-tax charge of \$16.5m linked to a special charge to cover costs related to silicone breast implants at Dow Corning, a 50-50 joint ven-

ture between Corning and Dow Chemical. As a result, Corning had net income of \$72.1m, or 38 cents, against \$75.9m, or 41 cents, a year earlier.

Sales in the period rose 19 per cent to \$926.7m from \$778.2m.

For the first half, Corning had net income of \$150.2m, or 79 cents, on sales of \$1.72bn. The results compare with earnings of \$124.3m, or 67 cents, on sales of \$1.47bn a year earlier.

FDA approves Merck drug

MERCK, the world's biggest pharmaceutical company, has received US regulatory permission to market its Proscar drug for the treatment and control of benign prostate disease, writes Karen Zagor.

The Food and Drug Administration's ruling comes about four months after an advisory panel to the US watchdog decided that the benefits of Proscar outweighed the risks. Although the FDA had been

widely expected to approve the drug after the advisory panel's decision, news that Proscar would be on the market by late July spurred active trading in Merck shares, which rose 3 1/4 to \$49 by mid-session yesterday.

Merck believes that Proscar will be its next \$1bn product. Earlier this month Proscar was approved for marketing in the UK.

These securities have not been registered under the Securities Act of 1933 and may not be offered or sold in the United States or to United States persons absent registration or an applicable exemption from the registration requirements. All of these securities having been sold, this announcement appears as a matter of record only.



China Steel Corporation

Global Offering

10,500,000 Global Depositary Shares
Representing 210,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

and

7,500,000 Rule 144A American Depositary Shares
Representing 150,000,000 Shares of Common Stock

Global Coordinator

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Co-Global Coordinator

China Trust Company, Limited

Financial Advisors

to
Commission of National Corporations
Ministry of Economic Affairs, R.O.C.

Shearson-Global Financial Services Co., Ltd.

China Development Corporation

10,500,000 Global Depositary Shares

This portion of the offering is being offered outside the United States by the undersigned.

France
Banque Indosuez
Goldman Sachs Paris Inc. et Cie
Paribas Capital Markets Group
Banque Nationale de Paris
Credit Lyonnais Securities
Société Générale

Germany
Dresdner Bank
Goldman Sachs International Limited
Westdeutsche Landesbank
Bayerische Vereinsbank Aktiengesellschaft
BHF Bank
DG BANK

Hong Kong, Singapore and other Southeast Asian Countries
Jardine Fleming International Inc.
Baring Brothers & Co., Limited
Goldman Sachs (Asia) Limited
Lehman Brothers International
Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited
Daiva Securities (H.K.) Limited
The Development Bank of Singapore Ltd
Fubon Integrated Securities Co.
Lucky Securities Co., Ltd.
J.P. Morgan Securities Asia Ltd.
Morgan Grenfell (Asia) Limited
Nomura International (Hong Kong) Ltd.
Peregrine Capital Limited
Standard Chartered Asia Limited
Wardley James Capel (Far East) Limited

Switzerland
UBS Phillips & Drew Securities Limited
Credit Suisse First Boston Limited
Goldman Sachs Finanz A.G.
Swiss Bank Corporation

United Kingdom and the Rest of Europe
Goldman Sachs International Limited
Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited
Baring Brothers & Co., Limited
S.G. Warburg Securities
ABN AMRO Bank N.V.
China Trust Company, Limited
Creditanstalt-Bankverein
Robert Fleming & Co. Limited
Kidder, Peabody International Limited

Rest of World
Lehman Brothers International
Daiva Europe Limited
Goldman Sachs International Limited
Morgan Stanley International
Merrill Lynch International Limited
Ord Minnett Securities Limited
J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited
Wood Gundy Inc.

7,500,000 Rule 144A American Depositary Shares

This portion of the offering was privately sold in the United States by the undersigned and these securities are eligible for resale pursuant to Rule 144A under the Securities Act of 1933.

Goldman, Sachs & Co.

Lehman Brothers

Baring Securities Inc.

C.J. Lawrence Inc.

Salomon Brothers Inc.

UBS Securities Inc.

June, 1992

U.S. \$200,000,000

B.B.L. International N.V.

Floating Rate Notes Due 2001
Guaranteed on a Subordinated Basis
as to payment of principal and interest by

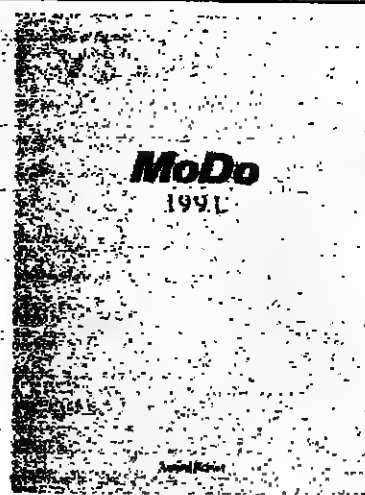
BBL

Banque Bruxelles Lambert S.A./
Bank Brussel Lambert N.V.

| | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Interest Rate | 4.1125% per annum |
| Interest Period | 22nd June 1992 22nd December 1992 |
| Interest Amount due 22nd December 1992 | |
| per U.S. \$ 10,000 Note | U.S. \$ 209.05 |
| per U.S. \$250,000 Note | U.S. \$5,226.30 |

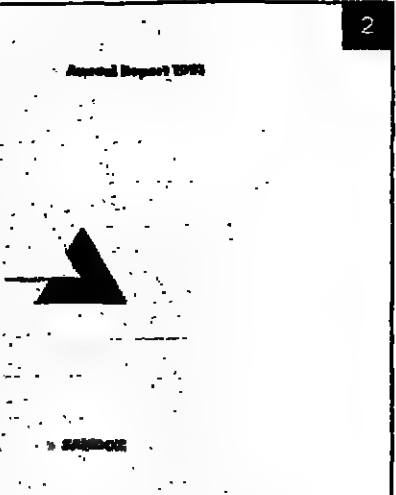
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MoDo

MoDo is an international forest products company engaged in the production and sale of fine paper, newsprint and magazine paper, paperboard, pulp, timber products, packaging paper, and paper and plastic sacks. The average number of employees in 1991 was 12,872. Of the Group's total sales of SKr 17,414 million in 1991, 84 per cent went to countries outside Sweden. Some 70 per cent of total sales went to customers in the EC area. Profits after tax financial items but before extraordinary items amounted to SKr 221 m, a decrease of 82 per cent on 1990.



Sandoz

Sandoz is a global company based in Switzerland with nearly three-quarters of its sales in Life Sciences. Its Pharmaceutical Division ranks among the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world, and is a leader in immunology and endocrinology. Consistent investment in R&D has been a key to its outstanding performance. The company also has important worldwide operations in chemicals, agrochemicals, seeds, nutrition, consumer chemicals and environmental engineering. Sales in 1991 were Sfr. 13,444 billion (+9%) and net profit Sfr. 1,114 billion (+15%).



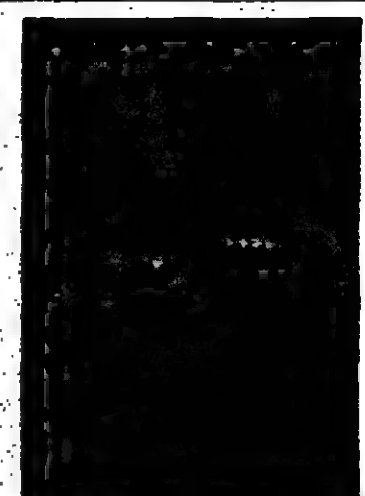
Southwestern Bell Corporation

Southwestern Bell Corporation is a St. Louis, Mo., based telecommunications company with 1991 net income of \$1.2 billion, revenues of \$9.3 billion, and EPS of \$3.25. SBC provides local telephone service in Texas, Missouri, Oklahoma, Kansas and Arkansas and has one of the fastest-growing cellular operations in the nation. Other businesses include Yellow Pages directories, paging, telephone equipment, international cable TV interest and a partnership in Telcel.



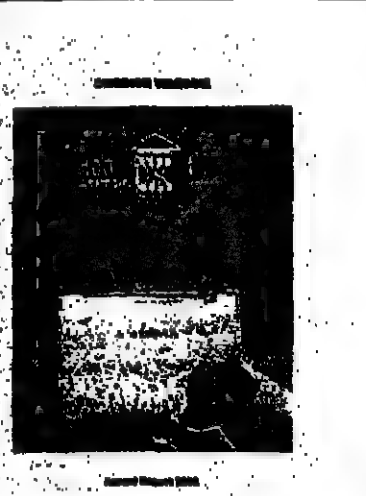
Orkla A.S.

Orkla, the result of the merger between Orkla Industrier and Orkla Bergsgard, is one of Norway's largest listed companies. Turnover in 1991 exceeded NOK 16.1 billion, of which 26% were sales outside Norway. Operating profit of NOK 603 million was in line with 1990. Profit before taxes was NOK 601 million. Activities are concentrated around three core areas: Branded goods for the consumer market, Chemical - orientated process industry and Equity investments. Orkla is Norway's largest and Scandinavia's second largest Branded goods company, primarily within food and beverages. The Process industry is strongly internationalised and comprises chemicals and chemicals - orientated wood processing. Orkla is Norway's second largest Equity investor.



British Petroleum Company Plc

The British Petroleum Company p.l.c. is the parent company of one of the world's largest international petroleum and petrochemical groups. Key strengths are in exploration and production, refining and marketing, and in chemicals. BP also has important interests in aviation. It supports all its businesses with high quality research and technology. About one-third of BP's fixed assets are in the USA. BP shares are quoted on stock exchanges in the UK, the USA, Japan, Canada, Switzerland, France, Germany and the Netherlands.



Televerket

The Televerket Group offers public and private networks for telephony, data communications and mobile telephones. In 1991, the Televerket Group's revenues totalled USD 5.7 billion, up 10%. Return on total capital was 8%. Televerket invested a total of USD 1.6 billion. Telephone traffic rose 6.2%. Network performance was 96.9%.



Frankfurter Hypothekbank AG

Frankfurter Hypothekbank, established in 1862, is one of the largest German private mortgage banks and among the most profitable. Its share capital is majority held by Deutsche Bank AG. The bank's activities are restricted by the Mortgage Bank Act to low risk business, i.e. financing real property and granting loans to the public sector. This business is funded by issuing Pfandbriefe, which are known as a top-grade investment. Pfandbriefe of Frankfurter Hypothekbank have been rated "AAA" by Standard & Poor's.



CS Holding

1991 consolidated net profit of CS Holding, the parent of Credit Suisse, CS First Boston, Inc., Lloyds Holding Ltd., Electrowatt Ltd., Pides Holding, CS Life, increased to Sfr. 980 million, representing a return on equity of 12.4%. In 1991 all Group companies improved their performance substantially based on the Group's leading position in securities underwriting, asset management, mergers and acquisitions, derivative products, securities trading and commercial banking. Approved by Credit Suisse Member of IMRO.



BMW

The Driving Force for Refined Technology: BMW, one of the twelve largest industrial corporations in Germany, had a successful 1991. The world marque for dynamic and exclusive cars and motorcycles, BMW has about 5 million vehicles on the road in more than 100 countries. Each year BMW builds more than 500,000 vehicles in its factories in Germany. About 70,000 people research and develop, produce and guarantee BMW quality. At the start of the 1990s, the company resumed production of aircraft engines in a joint venture with Rolls-Royce.



PolyGram N.V.

PolyGram N.V. - the global entertainment group - is one of the three largest recorded music producers and publishers worldwide. In 1991, PolyGram achieved record net sales of U.S. \$3.7 billion, income from operations of \$430 million and net income of \$261 million, and increased its world market share to an estimated 18.5%. Ticker symbol: PLG.



Saab-Scania

Saab-Scania's operations are carried on in the four business areas of Scania Trucks & Buses, Saab Aircraft, Saab-Scania Combitech and Saab-Scania Finance. With its own Board and company management, Saab-Scania forms an independent industrial group within Investor. Saab-Scania has 31,656 employees in Sweden and abroad. Sales in 1991 amounted to SEK 29,299 million and income to SEK 2,811 million. These figures are exclusive of Saab Automobile, which is owned equally by Saab-Scania and General Motors, but is not consolidated in Saab-Scania.



Solvay S.A.

Solvay, a worldwide chemical and pharmaceutical Group with consolidated sales of USD 8 billion in 1991, is motivated by a constant will to seek and bring about progress to all. It operates through 453 establishments in 37 countries and employs about 45,600 persons. Solvay concentrates on five sectors of activities: alkalis, peroxygens, plastics, processing and health.



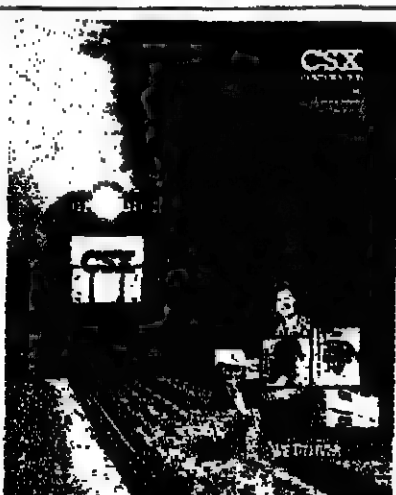
Celsius Industries

1991 was a successful year for Celsius Industries and a benchmark year in the history of the company. A number of events and decisions mark an entry into a new era. The major event of the year was the acquisition of FFV, which involved a sharp increase in Group sales and doubled the number of employees. This expansion has continued with the addition of Bofors (formerly Swedish Ordnance), which became a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Celsius Group in early 1992. With the acquisition of FFV and Bofors, the Celsius Group has become Sweden's largest and leading industrial concern in the defence material sector, with substantial development resources.



Kvaerner a.s.

Kvaerner is an international group based in Norway. The group's main business areas are mechanical engineering, offshore installations, consultancy engineering, pulp technology, shipbuilding and shipping. Operating revenue in 1991 totalled NOK 18,604 million. Consolidated pre-tax profit was NOK 1,103 million. Kvaerner has 16,000 employees. Kvaerner is listed on the Oslo Stock Exchange, the London Stock Exchange and the Stockholm Stock Exchange.



CSX

CSX Corporation, with assets of \$13 billion and 1991 revenue of \$8.6 billion, is an international transportation services company with principal businesses in rail freight, ocean container shipping, intermodal carriage, inland barge, trucking, warehousing, distribution, and related services. The company also has interests in real estate and resorts. Headquarters are in Richmond, VA.



LKAB

LKAB is one of the world's leading producers of highly upgraded iron ore products. The ore handling chain - mining, processing and transport - has been developed into a high-tech system with high demands on quality and delivery reliability. More than 80 per cent of the production is exported to steel mills in Europe and other parts of the world. Gross revenues in 1991 amounted to MSEK 3 878 (3 877). Income after financial items was MSEK 543 (608).

The Financial Times Annual Report Service is appearing on 23, 24, 25, 26 June 1992.

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| 2 <input type="checkbox"/> Sandoz | 6 <input type="checkbox"/> Televerket | 10 <input type="checkbox"/> PolyGram N.V. | 14 <input type="checkbox"/> Kvaerner a.s. |
| 3 <input type="checkbox"/> Southwestern Bell | 7 <input type="checkbox"/> Frankfurter Hypobank | 11 <input type="checkbox"/> Saab-Scania | 15 <input type="checkbox"/> CSX |
| 4 <input type="checkbox"/> Orkla A.S. | 8 <input type="checkbox"/> CS Holding | 12 <input type="checkbox"/> Solvay S.A. | 16 <input type="checkbox"/> LKAB |

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The information contained in this document is in summary form and has been derived from, and should be read in conjunction with, the full prospectus dated 17th June 1992 (the "Prospectus"). The Prospectus comprises approved listing particulars relating to Kenwood Appliances plc (the "Company") in accordance with the listing rules made under section 142 of the Financial Services Act 1986 and alone contains full details of the history and business of the Company and its subsidiaries. Copies of the Prospectus are available at the addresses listed below. Words and expressions defined in the Prospectus have the same meanings when used in this document, unless the context requires otherwise. The directors of the Company, whose names appear on page 2 of the Prospectus, are satisfied that this document contains a fair summary of the key information set out in the Prospectus. In applying for shares in the Company, you will be treated as applying on the basis of the information in the Prospectus and on the terms and conditions of application set out below. Before deciding to apply for shares, you are advised to read the Prospectus and to consult an independent financial adviser authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986. The London Stock Exchange has authorised the issue of this document under section 154(1)(b) of the Financial Services Act 1986 without approving the contents. Application has been made to the London Stock Exchange for the whole of the ordinary share capital of the Company, issued and now being issued, to be admitted to the Official List.

KENWOOD Appliances plc

(Incorporated and registered in England and Wales under the Companies Act 1985.
Registered No. 2390006)

Placing and Public offer by Schroders

of 23,226,386 ordinary shares of 10p each
at 285p per share
payable in full on application
of which 11,613,193 shares are being placed and 11,613,193 shares are being offered to the public

The application lists for the shares which are the subject of the Public offer will open at 10.00 a.m. on 24th June 1992 and may be closed at any time thereafter. The procedure for application and an Application Form in respect of the Public offer are set out below. It is expected that listing will become effective and that dealings in the shares will commence on 1st July 1992.

Upon Admission, the shares which are the subject of the Placing and the Public offer will rank *pari passu* in all respects with the existing issued ordinary shares of Kenwood Appliances plc and will rank in full for all dividends or other distributions thereafter declared, made or paid on the ordinary share capital of the Company.

The shares have not been and will not be registered under the United States Securities Act of 1933 and may not, subject to certain exceptions, be offered or sold within the United States. This document should not be distributed into the US.

Share capital immediately following the Placing and Public offer

Authorised £20,167,874.30 Issued and fully paid £3,668,196.20
in ordinary shares of 10p each

Indebtedness

At the close of business on 29th May 1992, the Group had outstanding borrowings or indebtedness in the nature of borrowings of £40.8 million, comprising unsecured loan notes of £1.9 million, obligations under finance leases of £0.1 million, other borrowings or indebtedness in the nature of borrowings of £37.7 million (of which £0.4 million was unsecured) and other contingent liabilities of £1.1 million. At the same date, the Group had cash balances of £0.7 million.

Save as aforesaid, and apart from intra-group liabilities, neither Kenwood Appliances plc nor any of its subsidiaries had at that date any mortgages, charges, loan capital (whether outstanding or created but unissued) or any other borrowings or indebtedness in the nature of borrowings, including bank overdrafts, liabilities under acceptances (other than normal trade bills), acceptance credits, hire purchase commitments, obligations under finance leases, guarantees or other material contingent liabilities.

Key information

Summary

Kenwood is an internationally-recognised brand name and the Kenwood Group is a leading European manufacturer and supplier of food preparation appliances. The Group markets products with a reputation for quality and durability and is best known for the Kenwood Chef mixer.

Kenwood's strategy in recent years has been to improve and expand its core range of food preparation products and to realise more of the potential of the Kenwood brand name. Key to this has been the introduction of new product ranges and a continuing process of improving existing products. It has also broadened the geographical spread of its operations. Group sales are split approximately one third to each of the UK, Continental Europe and the rest of the World.

In the five years ended 31st March 1992, the Group's sales have risen from £65.2 million to £92.1 million and operating profit has risen from £1.4 million to £9.5 million.

Kenwood's improved capital base following the Offer will enable the Group to finance the development of more new products and to continue to broaden its geographical spread.

Trading record

Set out below is the Group's trading record in respect of its continuing activities for the five years to 31st March 1992, which has been extracted from the historical consolidated profit and loss accounts contained in the Accountants' report in Part 4 of the Prospectus. In particular, your attention is drawn to page 28 of the Prospectus which sets out fully the profit and loss record of the Group for the five years.

| | 1988 | 1989 | 1990 | 1991 | 1992 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Turnover | £65,166 | £62,438 | £66,740 | £78,009 | £92,056 |
| Operating profit before exceptional items, interest and other payments to/from tax | 1,402 | 4,000 | 4,229 | 6,599 | 9,511 |

Offer statistics

| | |
|--|----------------|
| Offer price per share | 285p |
| Number of shares in issue following the Offer | 36,481,932 |
| Market capitalisation at the Offer price | £104.5 million |
| Percentage of enlarged share capital now being offered | 63.3 per cent |
| Net proceeds of the Offer | £63.5 million |
| Net proceeds receivable by the Company | £59.5 million |

Historical earnings per share for the year ended 31st March 1992
Pro forma earnings per share for the year ended 31st March 1992
Price-earnings ratio (based on pro forma earnings per share)
Notional net dividend per share in respect of the year ended 31st March 1992
Gross dividend yield (based on notional net dividend) at the Offer price

16.4p
18.9p
15.1 times
7.5p
3.5 per cent

- Notes:
(1) The basis and methods of calculation of the pro forma earnings per share, price-earnings ratio and gross dividend yield are set out in Financial Information in Part 2 of the Prospectus.
(2) National Westminster Bank plc is purchasing a total of 1,399,218 shares from existing shareholders in order to make those shares available under the ESOP options, details of which are set out in Additional Information in section 6(e) of Part 5 of the Prospectus.
(3) The net proceeds receivable by the Company will be used principally to repay £33.4 million of outstanding bank loans.

Availability of documents

Copies of this document, the Prospectus and the Application Form may be obtained for a period of 14 days from 17th June 1992, from:

| | | | |
|--|--|---|---|
| J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited 120 Cheapside London EC2N 4DS | Kenwood Appliances plc New Lane Havant Hampshire PO9 2NH | Edinburgh 125 Colinton Road Edinburgh EH10 3AD | London 120 Regent Street London W1A 6BH |
| Barre & Fittens Ltd. 1 Phoenix Avenue London EC2M 2PA | Lloyds Bank plc Regulator's Department 2nd Floor Roths House 80 Cheapside London EC2V 6RE | Edinburgh 35 Corn Street Edinburgh EH1 1LE | Manchester 83 King Street Manchester M60 2ES |
| | | Edinburgh 113/115 George Street Edinburgh EH2 4TF | Newcastle upon Tyne 100 Grey Street Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 9LS |
| | | | Liverpool India Buildings Water Street Liverpool L69 2BT |

Copies of the Prospectus are also available for collection from the Company Announcements Office, the London Stock Exchange, Capel Court Entrance, Bartholomew Lane, London EC2, for a period of two days from 17th June 1992.

KENWOOD Appliances plc

Public offer Application Form

Before making any application to acquire shares you are recommended to consult an independent financial adviser authorised under the Financial Services Act 1986.
Public offer by Schroders of 11,613,193 ordinary shares of 10p each in Kenwood Appliances plc ("shares") at 285p per share, payable in full on application.

| | | | |
|--|--|---------------|--|
| 1. I/We offer to acquire | | shares | |
| 2. and I/we attach a cheque or banker's draft for the amount payable to "Lloyds Bank plc A/C Kenwood Appliances plc Offer" | | £ | |
| 3. Dated | | 1992 | |
| 4. Please use BLOCK CAPITALS | | Signature | |
| Forename(s) (in full) Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss or title Surname | | Date of birth | |
| Minor's forename(s) (in full) Surname | | Date of birth | |
| Address (in full) | | Postcode | |
| 5. <input type="checkbox"/> I/We have your cheque or banker's draft made payable to "Lloyds Bank plc A/C Kenwood Appliances plc Offer" and crossed "Not negotiable" for the amount in Box 2. | | | |

Fill in Boxes 6 and 7 only when there is more than one applicant. The first or sole applicant should sign in Box 3 and complete Box 4. Insert in Box 6 the names and addresses of the second and subsequent applicants, each of whose signature is required in Box 7.
N.B. If you make a joint application, you will not be able to transfer the shares into a PEP.

| | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 6. Please use BLOCK CAPITALS | | Forename(s) (in full) Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss or title Surname | | Forename(s) (in full) Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss or title Surname | | Forename(s) (in full) Mr, Mrs, Ms, Miss or title Surname | |
| Address (in full) | | Address (in full) | | Address (in full) | | Address (in full) | |
| Postcode | | Postcode | | Postcode | | Postcode | |
| 7. Signature | | Signature | | Signature | | Signature | |

Except to the extent that you delete any of the following, you warrant that:

- I/We are not applying, as, or as (a) nominee(s) or agent(s) for, (a) person(s) who is/are or may be persons mentioned in section 93 or section 96 of the Finance Act 1986 (depository receipts and clearance services).
- I/We are not applying, as, or as (a) nominee(s) or agent(s) for, (a) person(s) who is/are (a) market maker(s) in the shares of Kenwood Appliances plc within the meaning of section 91 of the Finance Act 1986. If this warranty is deleted, please state the date on which application for registration as a market maker in respect of the shares was made to the London Stock Exchange.
- I/We are not applying for registration as, or as (a) nominee(s) or trustee(s) for, a body of persons established for charitable purposes only. If this warranty is deleted, please state name of charity and registered number (where applicable).

Applications must be received by 10.00 a.m. on 24th June 1992. The completed Application Form together with a cheque or banker's draft for the amount payable should be posted, or delivered by hand, to Lloyds Bank plc, Regulator's Department, Issue Section, P.O. Box 100, 2nd Floor, Roth House, 80 Cheapside, London EC2V 6RE. Any person signing this Application Form under a power of attorney must enclose the original power of attorney (or a copy certified by a solicitor) for inspection.

Terms and conditions of application — Public offer

(1) The contracts arising from acceptance of applications will be conditional on the admission of the ordinary share capital of the Company, issued and now being issued, to the Official List of the London Stock Exchange becoming effective by the making of an announcement in accordance with Rule 510 of the Rules issued by the London Stock Exchange on or before 1st July 1992 and on the Offer Agreement referred to in section 12 of Part 5 of the Prospectus becoming fully unconditional and not being terminated before such announcement. Cheques received in full for the shares payable on application may be returned for payment to the bank on which the cheque is drawn, but the bank will not be responsible for the return of such cheques unless the bank has received notice from the Company that the cheque is to be returned.

(2) If such conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(3) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(4) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

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(8) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(9) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(10) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(11) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(12) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(13) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(14) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(15) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(16) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(17) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(18) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(19) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(20) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(21) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(22) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(23) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

(24) If the conditions are not satisfied, the shares will be returned (without interest) by the Company to the applicant through the post at the risk of the applicant on or before 1st July 1992.

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COMPANY NEWS: UK

Hays in £38m French acquisition

By Richard Gourlay

HAYS, the business services group, yesterday announced a long sought move into Europe through the acquisition of a French food and drink distribution company financed by a \$34.3m placement of shares.

The company is paying \$37.5m for Groupe FRIL, a private distributor of drinks and chilled foods for customers that include Carrefour, Yoplait and Moët Hennessy. Hays could pay an additional \$15m over three years, depending on FRIL's profits.

Mr Ronnie Frost, chairman and chief executive, said Hays had been wanting to expand in Europe for 18 months and that the FRIL acquisition would be followed by one in the commercial services area in France or Germany.

After yesterday's placing, the group's balance sheet was in good shape to make further acquisitions without issuing any more new paper.

Gearing had fallen from 30 per cent to 26 per cent on net debt of £38m. "There are a lot of good acquisition targets out there in Europe and England," Mr Frost said. "I am in an



Ronnie Frost - another acquisition in the pipeline

acquisitive mood."

He said FRIL would enhance the company's earnings, previously forecast at 12.3p in 1992-93, to about 12.6p. The acquisition would deliver earnings equivalent to 18p for each of the 19m new Hays shares being issued.

FRIL had sales of FF450 (£65m) in the year to September 1991 from its three trading groups - Logistique Barre, Transports Barre and TAO Développement. It made operating profits of FF48m before interest, tax and start up losses on new contracts.

Hays is buying net assets revealed last September at £7m and is also assuming FF250m of FRIL's debt.

Mr Frost said there continued to be no evidence of economic recovery in the UK. The recession division - the third business area which supplies specialised people - remained flat. When the recession came to an end, however, it would recover very quickly and about 70 per cent of its billings would go straight to the bottom line, he said.

Pepe warns of losses and passed dividend

By Roland Radcliff

PEPE GROUP, the USM-quoted jeans designer and distributor, will make a small loss after tax for the year to end March because of rationalisation of its international operations.

It will also pass its final dividend for the first time since it came to the market in 1985. Its shares yesterday fell 30p to close at 42p.

The profits warning comes less than a year after the then chairman Mr Arun Shah said the board was optimistic that performance for the current year would reflect a marked improvement on the previous year.

Mr Shah, who is now deputy chairman, was succeeded as chairman by Mr Siles Chou in March. Mr Chou has decided to bring forward the reorganisation resulting in big exceptional charges.

The group is to concentrate on its brand name, Pepe, instead of spreading its resources on other names such as BSCD, Hardcore and Buffalo.

Pepe is also to change its strategy of trying to increase overall sales in favour of chasing higher margins on less turnover.

There are likely to be substantial extraordinary charges relating to the sale or closure of subsidiaries.

Operating profits, whilst below those achieved in previous years, are likely to be in line with market expectations.

In spite of a slight increase in sales from £21.5m to £23m, pre-tax profits in the six months to September 29 fell by 13 per cent, from £3.7m to £3.0m. The interim dividend was cut from 2.5p to 2p.

Group borrowings for the year have fallen by just over half to £14.5m. The balance sheet was strengthened by a \$9.4m convertible preference share issue in July.

Storehouse chief turns his attention on Mothercare

By John Thornhill

MR DAVID DWORIN, the chief executive designate at Storehouse, is already going through the retailing conglomerate like a dose of salts.

Yesterday, the company announced that Mr Derek Lovelock was resigning as chief executive of Mothercare to be replaced by Ms Ann Iverson, who was appointed last month to the number two slot at the childrenswear chain.

Further management changes at Mothercare are expected shortly.

Storehouse also announced that Ms Sheila Forbes's job as group personnel director had been made redundant following a head office reorganisation.

This slimming-down exercise will see the 40-man head office cut by half and symbolically relocated within the B&S building, where Mr Dworkin has ruled the roost for the past three years.

The company stressed that the moves were no reflection on Mothercare's current trading position. Sales increases are said to be running in the "double-digits".



Ann Iverson: moving up to top slot at Mothercare

The changes at Mothercare follow a similar restructuring exercise at Habitat last month which led to the departure of Mr Michael Harvey as chairman and chief executive.

Mr Dworkin has already announced that he wants Mothercare's management team to work more closely with that of B&S to share sourcing expertise and increase

buying muscle. The appointment of Ms Iverson looks an ideal means of achieving the goal. She was formerly stores director at B&S and previously worked with Mr Dworkin at Bonwit Teller, the US fashion chain.

Mr Dworkin officially succeeds Mr Michael Julien as chief executive after the company's annual meeting next month.

Allen ends growth record with 39% fall to £3.21m

By Peter Pearson

IN THE year to March 29, Allen, the USM-quoted house-builder, contractor, plant hirer and property developer based in Wigan, Lancashire, saw the end of its 33-year record of growth.

Pre-tax profits fell 39 per cent to £3.21m (£5.26m) on turnover almost 13 per cent down at £58.9m (£67.5m). Although housebuilding had held up better in the north, Mr Donald Greenhalgh, chairman and managing director, described Allen's performance as "creditable" - indeed, the final dividend is linked to a proposed 3.25p (3p) for a total of 5p, up from 4.5p.

Forecasts for margins and operating profits on the contracting side had been too pessimistic - the former improved a "comfortable" 4.36 per cent and the latter 2.3 per cent to £1.4m, though turnover declined 18 per cent to £32.9m.

Although bad debt in plant hire was reduced, operating profits fell 55 per cent to £745,000. Bescab hired out more site offices thanks to price reduction.

Housebuilding profits were down 26 per cent at £2m on turnover 4 per cent lower at £15.4m. Servicing the bottom third of the market and building to exchange of contract rather than reservation helped the division, where completions rose by 5 to 271 at an average price of £56,000 (£50,000).

Mr Greenhalgh said the company had "not ducked the question" of provisions on its 3-year landbank, but had concluded none was necessary.

Provisions of some £340,000 were made on the property development side, where profits tumbled 67 per cent on turnover down 15 per cent at £1.6m.

Group earnings fell to 9.50p (15.47p) per share.

Indonesian project helps Philip Harris to £1.76m

By Angus Foster

PHILIP HARRIS, the pharmaceutical and scientific equipment supplier, yesterday reported a sharp increase in profits helped by a turnkey project in Indonesia.

The company also announced it is paying £1.64m for nine retail chemists in Oxfordshire. The move will improve its pharmaceuticals distribution network, but Harris has no plans to become a big retail operator, according to Mr David Newcombe, chief executive.

Pre-tax profits more than doubled from £671,000 to £1.76m in the year to March 31. Turnover increased 17.5 per cent to £79.1m (£67.3m).

The Indonesian contract, for the supply of scientific equipment, added about £8.6m to turnover. The company would not give an indication of the contract's profitability. Earnings per share increased

to 14.50p (10.03p). The company is recommending a final dividend of 4.25p (3.75p), an increase of 0.7 per cent.

Harris is buying Proctor's pharmacies and HM Brooks, which operate nine pharmacies in and around Oxford. This brings to 15 the number of retail outlets owned by Harris.

Harris is issuing £1.25m of three year, guaranteed loan notes and will pay the balance of £550,000 in cash. Following the purchase, Harris's debt will rise to £4.6m with gearing increasing from 26 per cent to 48 per cent.

David S Smith buy

David S Smith (Holdings) has acquired Bristol-based Colored, a specialist packager, from Courtlands for an undisclosed sum. Colored has annual turnover of some £5.5m.



THE STORY FROM
GREAT PORTLAND IS ONE OF
CONTINUING STRENGTH

Financial Highlights

| Year ended 31st March | 1992 | 1991 |
|--------------------------|--------------|--------|
| £'000 | £'000 | |
| Rental Income | 70,691 | 58,912 |
| Profit before tax | 33,910 | 33,767 |
| Profit after tax | 24,639 | 23,031 |
| Final dividend per share | 10.0p | 10.0p |
| Property assets | £911 million | |
| Shareholders' funds | £490 million | |

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BM withdraws from Thwaites purchase

By Andrew Baxter

NEGOTIATIONS on the possible sale of Thwaites, the site dumper manufacturer, are to continue following the withdrawal yesterday of a proposed purchase by BM Group, the acquisitive construction equipment manufacturer.

BM's decision to pull out followed a referral earlier this month of the proposed bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The Department of Trade and Industry had maintained that a takeover raised competition issues in the supply of site dumpers in the UK market, but yesterday BM said any proposed merger would not be against the public interest.

However, it did not wish to "devote the considerable management time or incur the excessive cost in presenting the case to the MMC for such a small potential acquisition."

Consequently, BM has "ceased discussions with privately-held Thwaites, which announced in February that it had hired Robert Fleming, the merchant bank, in connection with a possible sale."

It is thought that BM would have had to pay £10m-£12m for Thwaites, which would have brought BM some new products and an efficient factory at Leamington, recently reorganised.

Closely observers of the situation say BM's withdrawal was a disappointment but not a big surprise, once the referral was announced. An inquiry would have taken some months, and an eventual defeat for BM would have been embarrassing.

However, there are other "irons in the fire," according to a source close to the discussions. The BM approach was no further advanced than those by other companies, and the lifting of the uncertainty caused by the referral could bring other negotiations to a head.

Thwaites' core site dumper business has been badly hit by the construction industry recession, and depends primarily on the UK market. But its manufacturing facilities make it an attractive acquisition candidate for an Asian equipment producer seeking a European production base - not necessarily for site dumpers.

A purchase by a Korean producer remains a possibility, but is not expected to happen quickly - Asian purchasers are traditionally slow to reach a decision.

Additionally, the worldwide recession in the construction industry is only now beginning to lift, and conditions are hardly ideal for selling equipment manufacturers. Thwaites has stressed from the outset that it will remain independent if acceptable terms cannot be negotiated.

Crown Communications losses deepen

By Angus Foster

CROWN COMMUNICATIONS, the troubled commercial radio group which owns LBC, has announced that losses are continuing to mount and the company is now seeking to eliminate its problem areas.

Crown reported pre-tax losses of £5.58m in the six months to March 31. This compared to losses of £4.68m at the interim stage last time, and losses of £5.79m in the year to last September.

Crown said it is looking for a partner for its stake in RFM, the French radio network. Crown described France as a critical problem. It said RFM's revenue growth had been below expectations and recent

audience surveys have shown no improvement.

Crown also admitted publicly yesterday for the first time that a preliminary agreement for the sale of three quarters of its 40 per cent stake in Independent Radio News had not been concluded.

The company added that discussions on IRN's future were continuing. It is believed however that significant commercial radio groups want to pay a fixed fee for a national news service which could be provided by either Crown, Independent Television News or the Press Association.

LBC Radio reduced its operating losses from £1.8m to £300,000, helped by increased advertising revenue. The other

main UK subsidiaries, Business Communications and Independent Radio Sales, were also loss-making.

There were exceptional losses of £1.64m (£280,000) on the disposal of unspecified investments and terminated contracts.

Losses per share totalled 8.3p (7.8p) and again no dividend is being paid.

The after-tax loss for the period of £4.88m will wipe out the proceeds of last October's £4.5m rights issue.

DIVIDENDS ANNOUNCED

| Company | Dividend | Ex-date | Payable | Dividend | Ex-date | Payable |
|-----------------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|---------|
| Allen & Unwin | 3.25p | July 25 | 3.3p | 5 | 4.8 | |
| Campbell & Arncliffe | 1 | Sept 1 | 1 | 2 | 2.3 | |
| Fletcher King | 0.5 | Oct 1 | 0.5 | 1 | 2.9 | |
| Hardy Oil & Gas | fin | Sept 7 | 5.75 | 0.25 | 5.75 | |
| Havila (Philips) | 4.25 | Aug 5 | 0.6 | 2.05 | 2.05 | |
| Heavitree Brewery Int | 0.6 | Sept 2 | 0.775 | 1.375 | 1.15 | |
| Investment Co | fin | Sept 2 | 4.5 | 5.75 | 5.75 | |
| Ivory & Stone | 4.5 | Aug 14 | 2 | 4.8 | 2.2 | |
| Polaris | 2 | Aug 28 | nil | 1 | | |
| TGI | 1 | | | | | |

Dividends shown pence per share net except where otherwise stated. 10n increased capital. USM stock.



The Republic of Italy

U.S.\$500,000,000

Floating Rate Notes due 2000

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the Interest Period from 23rd June, 1992 to 23rd December, 1992 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 4.0625% per annum. The interest payable on the relevant interest payment date, 23rd December, 1992 will be US\$206.51 per US\$10,000 Notes and US\$3,162.76 per US\$250,000 Note.

23rd June, 1992

Lazio Banco San Paolo di Torino, London
as Agent Bank

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comprises the initial Tranche

In accordance with the Terms and Conditions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the three months period (93 days) from 22nd June to 22nd September, 1992 the Notes will carry an interest rate of 10% per cent per annum.

The interest payment date will be 22nd September, 1992. Coupon No. 29 will therefore be payable on 22nd September, 1992 at \$1,302.25 per coupon from Notes of £50,000 nominal and £130.23 per coupon from Notes of £5,000 nominal.

J. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited
Agent Bank

Hanson maintains the new key to its success is building up its main companies. **Roland Rudd** reports

In the past Hanson has explained the logic of its highly diverse portfolio of businesses in terms of their conformity to a set of characteristics. Its best-known criterion is that the business should have only

the \$250m price tag, but it came close to making its first substantial continental business.

Mr Panettiere's successor, Mr Bob Stiff, is continuing to look for another crane company. With Hanson holding a

years, with an initial \$62m payment, to acquire a coal mine and reserves from Southern Ohio Coal. Mr Engelhardt is eyeing mines across the world for further potential acquisition targets.

SCM Chemicals is also mak-

gies, such as Ertl toys and Tommy Armour golf equipment, are likely to be disposed of by way of flotation. "In some cases we should not be spending time on smaller companies," said Mr. Clarke.

Until that problem resolved the shares are likely to continue to trade at a 20 per cent discount to the average prospective price/earnings ratio in the UK.

Jardine Ma

last April. Administrative expenses were held to £9.94m (£9.88m).

| | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------|
| Interline: | | |
| Berford | | Jul. |
| Chaffin Payne | | Jul. 2 |
| Lex Services | | Jul. 3 |
| Loarbo | | Jul. 3 |

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Power Corp. | Jul. |
| Reliance Security | Jul. |
| Sabro Corp. | Jul. |
| Southern Water | Jun. |
| Standard Sellers | Jun. |
| Wrotham & East Denb Water | Jun. |
| Yorkshire Electricity | Jul. |

Heavitree Brewery down at £177,000

Heavitree Brewery, the pub operator, turned in a reduced profit of £177,000 in 1991, down from £200,000 in 1990. The share price of the Investment Company rose from 32.8p to 36.5p over the 12 months ended March 31. At September 30 1991 the figure stood at 36.55p.

Selling and administration expenses were cut to \$320,968 (\$575,111) and interest charges to \$1,609 (\$29,011). Earnings of 2p compared with previous

the formation of a new subsidiary, South Wales Energy, which has signed an agreement with the gas marketing arm of Amerada Hess Gas, a

Westport Group, the
USM-quoted exhibition, photo
graphic and marketing service

from Trafalgar House three years ago. The move is in line with the company's previous expectations. Earnings per share were 8.3p (16.1p).

| | | |
|----------------------|--|---------------|
| Interline: | | |
| Berford | | Jul. |
| Chaffin Payne | | Jul. 2 |
| Lex Services | | Jul. 3 |
| Loarbo | | Jul. 3 |

| | |
|---------------------------|------|
| Power Corp. | Jul. |
| Reliance Security | Jul. |
| Sabro Corp. | Jul. |
| Southern Water | Jun. |
| Standard Sellers | Jun. |
| Wrotham & East Denb Water | Jun. |
| Yorkshire Electricity | Jul. |

In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the period 22 June 1992 to 22 September 1992 the Notes will carry a rate of interest of 5 1/4% per annum with a coupon amount of US\$194.17.

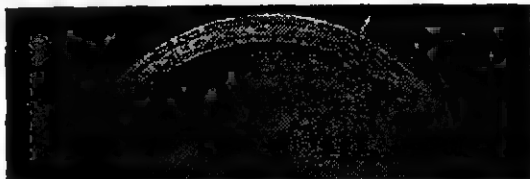
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US \$60,000,000
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In accordance with the provisions of the Notes, notice is hereby given that for the period 23 June 1982 to 22 September 1982 the Notes will carry a rate of interest of 5 1/4% per annum with a coupon amount of US\$194.17.

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1. *Chlorophyll a* (Chl *a*)

recession. The new, and potentially disturbing, factor is the

recession. The new, and potentially disturbing, factor is the downturn in the Nikkei Average which some UK analysts see falling to between 12,000 and 13,000 and putting pressure on the US market.

Against this is a belief expressed this weekend by S.G. Warburg Securities, that the UK market represents good value and is in danger of "over-shooting on the bear tack".

The strategy team at Kleinwort Benson predicts a mild down-

ward drift this week but warns that if the Dow Average breaks downwards then the UK is likely to follow. Mr Peter Thorne, at Nikko, expects the market to stay around Footsie 2,550-2,600 for the present, with volume remaining at its current low levels.

Tesco, up a penny at 283p in an active market of 3.1m shares, as **J.Sainsbury** lost 6 to 462p on turnover of 2.4m.

The brewing and drinks sector was depressed by fears that economic recovery had been put off again after some ambig-

Tesco, up a penny at 285p in an active market of 3.1m shares, as J. Sainsbury lost 8 to 462p on turnover of 2.4m.

The brewing and drinks sector was depressed by fears that economic recovery had been delayed in Britain as some ubiquitous UK trade figures. Whitbread slipped 11 to 602p. Whitbread "A" 12 to 622p and Guinness 13 to 567p. A bright exception was Mansfield Brewery, up 15 at 710p, but traders pointed out that demand from one institution was tending to move an illiquid stock.

Last week's institutional visit to Vosper Thornycroft continued to benefit the shares, which added 3 to 945p. "A dead cat bounce" is how one market watcher described a rise in British Aerospace. The shares firm'd 3 to 270p in light trade of 1.8m.

Glywed International fell 9

to 220p after a leading agency broker advised caution on the stock due to the continued recession. British Steel shed a penny to 70p as Smith New Court reiterated its sell recommendation.

Trafalgar House weakened 7 to 107p after US investment house Lehman Brothers weighed in with a profits downgrading.

MARKET REPORTERS:
Steve Thompson,
John John, Joel Kibazo,
John Millman.

Other market statistics,
page 24

| FIXED INTEREST | | | | | | AVERAGE GROSS REDEMPTION YIELDS | | Mon Jun 22 | Fri Jun 19 | Year ago (approx.) |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| PRICE INDICES | Mon Jun 22 | Day's change % | Fri Jun 19 | Accrued interest | up/dn 1992 to date | | | | | |
| British Government | | | | | | 1 British Government | | | | |
| | | | | | | 1 Low 5 years | 8.14 | 8.08 | 9.12 | |
| | | | | | | 5 Coupons 15 years | 8.97 | 8.97 | 10.14 | |
| | | | | | | 3 (10%-7 1/4 %) 20 years | 8.97 | 8.97 | 10.14 | |
| | | | | | | 4 Medium 5 years | 9.21 | 9.17 | 10.51 | |
| | | | | | | 5 Coupons 15 years | 9.12 | 9.09 | 10.39 | |
| | | | | | | 6 (8%-10 1/4 %) 20 years | 9.10 | 9.08 | 10.29 | |
| | | | | | | 3 Coupons 15 years | 9.43 | 9.37 | 10.68 | |
| | | | | | | 4 Coupons 15 years | 9.31 | 9.28 | 10.68 | |
| | | | | | | 9 (11 1/4 %) 20 years | 9.25 | 9.24 | 10.41 | |
| | | | | | | 10 Irredeemables | 9.23 | 9.23 | 10.31 | |
| 1 All stocks (64) | 135.41 | -0.14 | 135.60 | 1.60 | 6.71 | | | | | |
| Index-Linked | | | | | | Index-Linked | | | | |
| 1 Up to 5 years (2) | 173.49 | -0.03 | 173.54 | 0.86 | 1.83 | 1 Index-Linked | | | | |
| 2 Over 5 years (20) | 152.86 | -0.08 | 152.99 | 0.66 | 2.40 | 1 Inflation rate 3% Up to 5 yrs. | 3.98 | 3.96 | 4.38 | |
| 3 All stocks (12) | 154.51 | -0.08 | 154.63 | 0.68 | 2.31 | 2 Inflation rate 5% Up to 5 yrs. | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.53 | |
| 4 All stocks (12) | 154.51 | -0.08 | 154.63 | 0.68 | 2.30 | 3 Inflation rate 10% Up to 5 yrs. | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.44 | |
| 5 All stocks (12) | 154.51 | -0.08 | 154.63 | 0.68 | 2.31 | 4 Inflation rate 10% Over 5 yrs. | 4.14 | 4.14 | 4.31 | |
| 6 Debs & Loans (63) | 120.02 | -0.13 | 120.18 | 2.41 | 5.55 | 1 Debs & Loans | 10.58 | 10.55 | 11.99 | |
| | | | | | | 15 years | 10.43 | 10.40 | 11.68 | |

| FIXED INTEREST | | | | | | AVERAGE GROSS REDEMPTION YIELDS | | Mon Jun 22 | Fri Jun 19 | Year ago (approx.) |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| PRICE INDICES | Mon Jun 22 | Day's change % | Fri Jun 19 | Accrued interest | up/dn 1992 to date | | | | | |
| British Government | | | | | | 1 British Government | | | | |
| | | | | | | 1 Low 5 years | 8.14 | 8.08 | 9.12 | |
| | | | | | | 5 Coupons 15 years | 8.97 | 8.97 | 10.14 | |
| | | | | | | 3 (10%-7 1/4 %) 20 years | 8.97 | 8.97 | 10.14 | |
| | | | | | | 4 Medium 5 years | 9.21 | 9.17 | 10.51 | |
| | | | | | | 5 Coupons 15 years | 9.12 | 9.09 | 10.39 | |
| | | | | | | 6 (8%-10 1/4 %) 20 years | 9.10 | 9.08 | 10.29 | |
| | | | | | | 3 Coupons 15 years | 9.43 | 9.37 | 10.68 | |
| | | | | | | 4 Coupons 15 years | 9.31 | 9.28 | 10.68 | |
| | | | | | | 9 (11 1/4 %) 20 years | 9.25 | 9.24 | 10.41 | |
| | | | | | | 10 Irredeemables | 9.23 | 9.23 | 10.31 | |
| 1 All stocks (64) | 135.41 | -0.14 | 135.60 | 1.60 | 6.71 | | | | | |
| Index-Linked | | | | | | Index-Linked | | | | |
| 1 Up to 5 years (2) | 173.49 | -0.03 | 173.54 | 0.86 | 1.83 | 1 Index-Linked | | | | |
| 2 Over 5 years (20) | 152.86 | -0.08 | 152.99 | 0.66 | 2.40 | 1 Inflation rate 3% Up to 5 yrs. | 3.98 | 3.96 | 4.38 | |
| 3 All stocks (12) | 154.51 | -0.08 | 154.63 | 0.68 | 2.31 | 2 Inflation rate 5% Up to 5 yrs. | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.53 | |
| 4 All stocks (12) | 154.51 | -0.08 | 154.63 | 0.68 | 2.30 | 3 Inflation rate 10% Up to 5 yrs. | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.44 | |
| 5 All stocks (12) | 154.51 | -0.08 | 154.63 | 0.68 | 2.31 | 4 Inflation rate 10% Over 5 yrs. | 4.14 | 4.14 | 4.31 | |
| 6 Debs & Loans (63) | 120.02 | -0.13 | 120.18 | 2.41 | 5.55 | 1 Debs & Loans | 10.58 | 10.55 | 11.99 | |
| | | | | | | 15 years | 10.43 | 10.40 | 11.68 | |

| FIXED INTEREST | | | | | | AVERAGE GROSS REDEMPTION YIELDS | | Mon Jun 22 | Fri Jun 19 | Year ago (approx.) |
|---------------------|------------|----------------|------------|------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------|-------|------------|------------|--------------------|
| PRICE INDICES | Mon Jun 22 | Day's change % | Fri Jun 19 | Accrued interest | up/dn 1992 to date | | | | | |
| British Government | | | | | | 1 British Government | | | | |
| | | | | | | 1 Low 5 years | 8.14 | 8.08 | 9.12 | |
| | | | | | | 5 Coupons 15 years | 8.97 | 8.97 | 10.14 | |
| | | | | | | 3 (10%-7 1/4 %) 20 years | 8.97 | 8.97 | 10.14 | |
| | | | | | | 4 Medium 5 years | 9.21 | 9.17 | 10.51 | |
| | | | | | | 5 Coupons 15 years | 9.12 | 9.09 | 10.39 | |
| | | | | | | 6 (8%-10 1/4 %) 20 years | 9.10 | 9.08 | 10.29 | |
| | | | | | | 3 Coupons 15 years | 9.43 | 9.37 | 10.68 | |
| | | | | | | 4 Coupons 15 years | 9.31 | 9.28 | 10.68 | |
| | | | | | | 9 (11 1/4 %) 20 years | 9.25 | 9.24 | 10.41 | |
| | | | | | | 10 Irredeemables | 9.23 | 9.23 | 10.31 | |
| 1 All stocks (64) | 135.41 | -0.14 | 135.60 | 1.60 | 6.71 | | | | | |
| Index-Linked | | | | | | Index-Linked | | | | |
| 1 Up to 5 years (2) | 173.49 | -0.03 | 173.54 | 0.86 | 1.83 | 1 Index-Linked | | | | |
| 2 Over 5 years (20) | 152.86 | -0.08 | 152.99 | 0.66 | 2.40 | 1 Inflation rate 3% Up to 5 yrs. | 3.98 | 3.96 | 4.38 | |
| 3 All stocks (12) | 154.51 | -0.08 | 154.63 | 0.68 | 2.31 | 2 Inflation rate 5% Up to 5 yrs. | 4.33 | 4.33 | 4.53 | |
| 4 All stocks (12) | 154.51 | -0.08 | 154.63 | 0.68 | 2.30 | 3 Inflation rate 10% Up to 5 yrs. | 3.25 | 3.25 | 3.44 | |
| 5 All stocks (12) | 154.51 | -0.08 | 154.63 | 0.68 | 2.31 | 4 Inflation rate 10% Over 5 yrs. | 4.14 | 4.14 | 4.31 | |
| 6 Debs & Loans (63) | 120.02 | -0.13 | 120.18 | 2.41 | 5.55 | 1 Debs & Loans | 10.58 | 10.55 | 11.99 | |
| | | | | | | 15 years | 10.43 | 10.40 | 11.68 | |

opening index: 2573.0; 9 am 2564.0; 10 am 2567.3; 11 am 2567.2; Noon 2568.1; 1 pm 2567.4; 2 pm 2563.5; 3 pm 2562.2; 3 pm 2560.1; 4 pm 2557.1; 4.30 pm 2554.0. 5. A list of consequences is available from the Publishers, The Financial Times, Number One, Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL. The FT-ACTUARIES SHARE INDICES SERVICE covers a range of electronic and paper-based products relating to these indices. These are available by subscription from FHSAT, 2nd Floor, 126 Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 4JL. Tel: 071-925 2323.

EQUITY FUTURES AND OPTIONS TRADING

THE overnight fall in Tokyo, together with reports pointing to a gloomy outlook for the U.K. economy, produced a dull day's trading in the derivatives market, writes Joel Kuznetz.

In stock index futures, the September contract on the FT-SE opened at 2,606 which proved to be the day's high. The contract, for September went into the red thereafter, sending the underlying cash market lower.

With dealers remaining on the sidelines, September continued to decline in the morning on very light volume, and figures showing a narrowing of the U.K.'s trade gap for May, helped to temper the trading.

While the early afternoon saw September continue to drift lower, the poor opening on Wall Street caused further falls in the contract and by 8.30 September had fallen to 2,580.

September closed at 2,578, down 48 on the previous session and below its estimated fair value premium to cash of about 35. Turnover at the official close was a very poor 5,590 lots.

In traded options volume was also dull, reaching only 24,842 contracts. The FT-SE option traded 12,014 contracts. Midland led the league table of the day's best performing stock options. It traded a total of 1,785 contracts, with the June 420 calls particularly busy.

Tesco, up a penny at 233p in an active market of 3.1m shares. The company's last 6p to 462p on 2 November of 2.4m.

The brewing and drinks sector was depressed by fears that economic recovery had been put off again after some ambiguous UK trade figures. Bass slipped 11p to 622p, Whitbread A 12 to 622p and Guinness 13 1/2 to 567p. The latter exception was due to a 10p bid from the Guinness-Brewery, up 15 at 710p, but traders pointed out that demand from one institution was tending to move an illiquid stock.

Last week's institutional visit to Vesper Thymocroft continued to benefit the shares, which added 8 at 848p. "A dead cat auction" is how one observer has described the rise in British Aerospace. The shares firmed 3 to 270p in light trade of 1.8m.

Glywedd International fell 9 to 229p after a leading agency

stock due to the continued recession. British Steel shed a penny to 70p as Smith New Court reiterated its sell recommendation.

Trafalgar House weakened 7 to 107p after US investment house Lehman Brothers weighed in with a profits downgrade.

MARKET REPORTERS:
Steve Thompson,
Peter John, Joel Kibazo,
John Millham.

Other market statistics,
page 24

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| 1982 | | | | 1983 | | | | 1984 | | | | 1985 | | | | 1986 | | | |
|------|-------|------|--|------|-------|------|--|------|-------|------|--|------|-------|------|--|------|-------|--|--|
| | Yield | | | | Yield | | | | Yield | | | | Yield | | | | Yield | | |
| 1000 | 10.00 | 8.25 | | 1000 | 10.00 | 8.25 | | 1000 | 10.00 | 8.25 | | 1000 | 10.00 | 8.25 | | 1000 | 10.00 | | |
| 1001 | 10.01 | 8.26 | | 1001 | 10.01 | 8.26 | | 1001 | 10.01 | 8.26 | | 1001 | 10.01 | 8.26 | | 1001 | 10.01 | | |
| 1002 | 10.02 | 8.27 | | 1002 | 10.02 | 8.27 | | 1002 | 10.02 | 8.27 | | 1002 | 10.02 | 8.27 | | 1002 | 10.02 | | |
| 1003 | 10.03 | 8.28 | | 1003 | 10.03 | 8.28 | | 1003 | 10.03 | 8.28 | | 1003 | 10.03 | 8.28 | | 1003 | 10.03 | | |
| 1004 | 10.04 | 8.29 | | 1004 | 10.04 | 8.29 | | 1004 | 10.04 | 8.29 | | 1004 | 10.04 | 8.29 | | 1004 | 10.04 | | |
| 1005 | 10.05 | 8.30 | | 1005 | 10.05 | 8.30 | | 1005 | 10.05 | 8.30 | | 1005 | 10.05 | 8.30 | | 1005 | 10.05 | | |
| 1006 | 10.06 | 8.31 | | 1006 | 10.06 | 8.31 | | 1006 | 10.06 | 8.31 | | 1006 | 10.06 | 8.31 | | 1006 | 10.06 | | |
| 1007 | 10.07 | 8.32 | | 1007 | 10.07 | 8.32 | | 1007 | 10.07 | 8.32 | | 1007 | 10.07 | 8.32 | | 1007 | 10.07 | | |
| 1008 | 10.08 | 8.33 | | 1008 | 10.08 | 8.33 | | 1008 | 10.08 | 8.33 | | 1008 | 10.08 | 8.33 | | 1008 | 10.08 | | |
| 1009 | 10.09 | 8.34 | | 1009 | 10.09 | 8.34 | | 1009 | 10.09 | 8.34 | | 1009 | 10.09 | 8.34 | | 1009 | 10.09 | | |
| 1010 | 10.10 | 8.35 | | 1010 | 10.10 | 8.35 | | 1010 | 10.10 | 8.35 | | 1010 | 10.10 | 8.35 | | 1010 | 10.10 | | |
| 1011 | 10.11 | 8.36 | | 1011 | 10.11 | 8.36 | | 1011 | 10.11 | 8.36 | | 1011 | 10.11 | 8.36 | | 1011 | 10.11 | | |
| 1012 | 10.12 | 8.37 | | 1012 | 10.12 | 8.37 | | 1012 | 10.12 | 8.37 | | 1012 | 10.12 | 8.37 | | 1012 | 10.12 | | |
| 1013 | 10.13 | 8.38 | | 1013 | 10.13 | 8.38 | | 1013 | 10.13 | 8.38 | | 1013 | 10.13 | 8.38 | | 1013 | 10.13 | | |
| 1014 | 10.14 | 8.39 | | 1014 | 10.14 | 8.39 | | 1014 | 10.14 | 8.39 | | 1014 | 10.14 | 8.39 | | 1014 | 10.14 | | |
| 1015 | 10.15 | 8.40 | | 1015 | 10.15 | 8.40 | | 1015 | 10.15 | 8.40 | | 1015 | 10.15 | 8.40 | | 1015 | 10.15 | | |
| 1016 | 10.16 | 8.41 | | 1016 | 10.16 | 8.41 | | 1016 | 10.16 | 8.41 | | 1016 | 10.16 | 8.41 | | 1016 | 10.16 | | |
| 1017 | 10.17 | 8.42 | | 1017 | 10.17 | 8.42 | | 1017 | 10.17 | 8.42 | | 1017 | 10.17 | 8.42 | | 1017 | 10.17 | | |
| 1018 | 10.18 | 8.43 | | 1018 | 10.18 | 8.43 | | 1018 | 10.18 | 8.43 | | 1018 | 10.18 | 8.43 | | 1018 | 10.18 | | |
| 1019 | 10.19 | 8.44 | | 1019 | 10.19 | 8.44 | | 1019 | 10.19 | 8.44 | | 1019 | 10.19 | 8.44 | | 1019 | 10.19 | | |
| 1020 | 10.20 | 8.45 | | 1020 | 10.20 | 8.45 | | 1020 | 10.20 | 8.45 | | 1020 | 10.20 | 8.45 | | 1020 | 10.20 | | |
| 1021 | 10.21 | 8.46 | | 1021 | 10.21 | 8.46 | | 1021 | 10.21 | 8.46 | | 1021 | 10.21 | 8.46 | | 1021 | 10.21 | | |
| 1022 | 10.22 | 8.47 | | 1022 | 10.22 | 8.47 | | 1022 | 10.22 | 8.47 | | | | | | | | | |

| | 1st Year Premium on 10/1/82 | 2nd Year Premium on 10/1/83 | 3rd Year Premium on 10/1/84 | 4th Year Premium on 10/1/85 | 5th Year Premium on 10/1/86 |
|------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 0000 | 17.01 | 17.01 | 17.01 | 17.01 | 17.01 |
| 0100 | 17.51 | 17.51 | 17.51 | 17.51 | 17.51 |
| 0200 | 17.51 | 17.51 | 17.51 | 17.51 | 17.51 |
| 0300 | 17.51 | 17.51 | 17.51 | 17.51 | 17.51 |
| 0400 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 0500 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 0600 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 0700 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 0800 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 0900 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1000 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1100 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1200 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1300 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1400 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1500 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1600 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1700 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1800 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 1900 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2000 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2100 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2200 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2300 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2400 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2500 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2600 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2700 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2800 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 2900 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3000 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3100 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3200 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3300 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3400 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3500 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3600 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3700 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3800 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 3900 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4000 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4100 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4200 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4300 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4400 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4500 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4600 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4700 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4800 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 4900 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 5000 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 5100 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 5200 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 5300 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 |
| 5400 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | 17.48 | |

| | | | |
|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1520 | 24.60 | 22.46 | 22.46 |
| 1525 | 25.01 | 22.87 | 22.87 |
| 1530 | 25.41 | 23.28 | 23.28 |
| 1700 | 26.4 | 24.09 | 24.09 |
| 1720 | 26.81 | 24.50 | 24.50 |
| 1740 | 27.21 | 24.91 | 24.91 |
| 1800 | 27.62 | 25.32 | 25.32 |
| 1820 | 28.03 | 25.73 | 25.73 |
| 1840 | 28.43 | 26.14 | 26.14 |
| 1860 | 28.84 | 26.55 | 26.55 |
| 1880 | 29.25 | 26.96 | 26.96 |
| 1900 | 29.65 | 27.37 | 27.37 |
| 1920 | 30.06 | 27.78 | 27.78 |
| 1940 | 30.47 | 28.19 | 28.19 |
| 1960 | 30.87 | 28.60 | 28.60 |
| 1980 | 31.28 | 29.01 | 29.01 |
| 2000 | 31.69 | 29.42 | 29.42 |
| 2020 | 32.09 | 29.83 | 29.83 |
| 2040 | 32.50 | 30.24 | 30.24 |
| 2060 | 32.91 | 30.65 | 30.65 |
| 2080 | 33.31 | 31.06 | 31.06 |
| 2100 | 33.72 | 31.47 | 31.47 |
| 2120 | 34.13 | 31.88 | 31.88 |
| 2140 | 34.53 | 32.29 | 32.29 |
| 2160 | 34.94 | 32.70 | 32.70 |
| 2180 | 35.35 | 33.11 | 33.11 |
| 2200 | 35.75 | 33.52 | 33.52 |
| 2220 | 36.16 | 33.93 | 33.93 |
| 2240 | 36.57 | 34.34 | 34.34 |
| 2260 | 36.97 | 34.75 | 34.75 |
| 2280 | 37.38 | 35.16 | 35.16 |
| 2300 | 37.79 | 35.57 | 35.57 |
| 2320 | 38.19 | 35.98 | 35.98 |
| 2340 | 38.60 | 36.39 | 36.39 |
| 2360 | 39.01 | 36.80 | 36.80 |
| 2380 | 39.41 | 37.21 | 37.21 |
| 2400 | 39.82 | 37.62 | 37.62 |
| 2420 | 40.23 | 38.03 | 38.03 |
| 2440 | 40.63 | 38.44 | 38.44 |
| 2460 | 41.04 | 38.85 | 38.85 |
| 2480 | 41.45 | 39.26 | 39.26 |
| 2500 | 41.85 | 39.67 | 39.67 |
| 2520 | 42.26 | 40.08 | 40.08 |
| 2540 | 42.67 | 40.49 | 40.49 |
| 2560 | 43.07 | 40.90 | 40.90 |
| 2580 | 43.48 | 41.31 | 41.31 |
| 2600 | 43.89 | 41.72 | 41.72 |
| 2620 | 44.29 | 42.13 | 42.13 |
| 2640 | 44.70 | 42.54 | 42.54 |
| 2660 | 45.11 | 42.95 | 42.95 |
| 2680 | 45.51 | 43.36 | 43.36 |
| 2700 | 45.92 | 43.77 | 43.77 |
| 2720 | 46.33 | 44.18 | 44.18 |
| 2740 | 46.73 | 44.59 | 44.59 |
| 2760 | 47.14 | 45.00 | 45.00 |
| 2780 | 47.55 | 45.41 | 45.41 |
| 2800 | 47.95 | 45.82 | 45.82 |
| 2820 | 48.36 | 46.23 | 46.23 |
| 2840 | 48.77 | 46.64 | 46.64 |
| 2860 | 49.17 | 47.05 | 47.05 |
| 2880 | 49.58 | 47.46 | 47.46 |
| 2900 | 49.99 | 47.87 | 47.87 |
| 2920 | 50.39 | 48.28 | 48.28 |
| 2940 | 50.80 | 48.69 | 48.69 |
| 2960 | 51.21 | 49.10 | 49.10 |
| 2980 | 51.61 | 49.51 | 49.51 |
| 3000 | 52.02 | 49.92 | 49.92 |
| 3020 | 52.43 | 50.33 | 50.33 |
| 3040 | 52.83 | 50.74 | 50.74 |
| 3060 | 53.24 | 51.15 | 51.15 |
| 3080 | 53.65 | 51.56 | 51.56 |
| 3100 | 54.05 | 51.97 | 51.97 |
| 3120 | 54.46 | 52.38 | 52.38 |
| 3140 | 54.87 | 52.79 | 52.79 |
| 3160 | 55.27 | 53.20 | 53.20 |
| 3180 | 55.68 | 53.61 | 53.61 |
| 3200 | 56.09 | 54.02 | 54.02 |
| 3220 | 56.49 | 54.43 | 54.43 |
| 3240 | 56.90 | 54.84 | 54.84 |
| 3260 | 57.31 | 55.25 | 55.25 |
| 3280 | 57.71 | 55.66 | 55.66 |
| 3300 | 58.12 | 56.07 | 56.0 |

By: The Chase Manhattan Bank, N.A.
London, Agent Bank

June 23, 1992

LONDON SHARE SERVICE

AMERICANS

| Notes | Price | 1992 | 1991 | 1990 | 1989 | 1988 | 1987 | 1986 | 1985 | 1984 | 1983 | 1982 | 1981 | 1980 | 1979 | 1978 | 1977 | 1976 | 1975 | 1974 | 1973 | 1972 | 1971 | 1970 | 1969 | 1968 | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 | 1962 | 1961 | 1960 | 1959 | 1958 | 1957 | 1956 | 1955 | 1954 | 1953 | 1952 | 1951 | 1950 | 1949 | 1948 | 1947 | 1946 | 1945 | 1944 | 1943 | 1942 | 1941 | 1940 | 1939 | 1938 | 1937 | 1936 | 1935 | 1934 | 1933 | 1932 | 1931 | 1930 | 1929 | 1928 | 1927 | 1926 | 1925 | 1924 | 1923 | 1922 | 1921 | 1920 | 1919 | 1918 | 1917 | 1916 | 1915 | 1914 | 1913 | 1912 | 1911 | 1910 | 1909 | 1908 | 1907 | 1906 | 1905 | 1904 | 1903 | 1902 | 1901 | 1900 | 1899 | 1898 | 1897 | 1896 | 1895 | 1894 | 1893 | 1892 | 1891 | 1890 | 1889 | 1888 | 1887 | 1886 | 1885 | 1884 | 1883 | 1882 | 1881 | 1880 | 1879 | 1878 | 1877 | 1876 | 1875 | 1874 | 1873 | 1872 | 1871 | 1870 | 1869 | 1868 | 1867 | 1866 | 1865 | 1864 | 1863 | 1862 | 1861 | 1860 | 1859 | 1858 | 1857 | 1856 | 1855 | 1854 | 1853 | 1852 | 1851 | 1850 | 1849 | 1848 | 1847 | 1846 | 1845 | 1844 | 1843 | 1842 | 1841 | 1840 | 1839 | 1838 | 1837 | 1836 | 1835 | 1834 | 1833 | 1832 | 1831 | 1830 | 1829 | 1828 | 1827 | 1826 | 1825 | 1824 | 1823 | 1822 | 1821 | 1820 | 1819 | 1818 | 1817 | 1816 | 1815 | 1814 | 1813 | 1812 | 1811 | 1810 | 1809 | 1808 | 1807 | 1806 | 1805 | 1804 | 1803 | 1802 | 1801 | 1800 | 1799 | 1798 | 1797 | 1796 | 1795 | 1794 | 1793 | 1792 | 1791 | 1790 | 1789 | 1788 | 1787 | 1786 | 1785 | 1784 | 1783 | 1782 | 1781 | 1780 | 1779 | 1778 | 1777 | 1776 | 1775 | 1774 | 1773 | 1772 | 1771 | 1770 | 1769 | 1768 | 1767 | 1766 | 1765 | 1764 | 1763 | 1762 | 1761 | 1760 | 1759 | 1758 | 1757 | 1756 | 1755 | 1754 | 1753 | 1752 | 1751 | 1750 | 1749 | 1748 | 1747 | 1746 | 1745 | 1744 | 1743 | 1742 | 1741 | 1740 | 1739 | 1738 | 1737 | 1736 | 1735 | 1734 | 1733 | 1732 | 1731 | 1730 | 1729 | 1728 | 1727 | 1726 | 1725 | 1724 | 1723 | 1722 | 1721 | 1720 | 1719 | 1718 | 1717 | 1716 | 1715 | 1714 | 1713 | 1712 | 1711 | 1710 | 1709 | 1708 | 1707 | 1706 | 1705 | 1704 | 1703 | 1702 | 1701 | 1700 | 1699 | 1698 | 1697 | 1696 | 1695 | 1694 | 1693 | 1692 | 1691 | 1690 | 1689 | 1688 | 1687 | 1686 | 1685 | 1684 | 1683 | 1682 | 1681 | 1680 | 1679 | 1678 | 1677 | 1676 | 1675 | 1674 | 1673 | 1672 | 1671 | 1670 | 1669 | 1668 | 1667 | 1666 | 1665 | 1664 | 1663 | 1662 | 1661 | 1660 | 1659 | 1658 | 1657 | 1656 | 1655 | 1654 | 1653 | 1652 | 1651 | 1650 | 1649 | 1648 | 1647 | 1646 | 1645 | 1644 | 1643 | 1642 | 1641 | 1640 | 1639 | 1638 | 1637 | 1636 | 1635 | 1634 | 1633 | 1632 | 1631 | 1630 | 1629 | 1628 | 1627 | 1626 | 1625 | 1624 | 1623 | 1622 | 1621 | 1620 | 1619 | 1618 | 1617 | 1616 | 1615 | 1614 | 1613 | 1612 | 1611 | 1610 | 1609 | 1608 | 1607 | 1606 | 1605 | 1604 | 1603 | 1602 | 1601 | 1600 | 1599 | 1598 | 1597 | 1596 | 1595 | 1594 | 1593 | 1592 | 1591 | 1590 | 1589 | 1588 | 1587 | 1586 | 1585 | 1584 | 1583 | 1582 | 1581 | 1580 | 1579 | 1578 | 1577 | 1576 | 1575 | 1574 | 1573 | 1572 | 1571 | 1570 | 1569 | 1568 | 1567 | 1566 | 1565 | 1564 | 1563 | 1562 | 1561 | 1560 | 1559 | 1558 | 1557 | 1556 | 1555 | 1554 | 1553 | 1552 | 1551 | 1550 | 1549 | 1548 | 1547 | 1546 | 1545 | 1544 | 1543 | 1542 | 1541 | 1540 | 1539 | 1538 | 1537 | 1536 | 1535 | 1534 | 1533 | 1532 | 1531 | 1530 | 1529 | 1528 | 1527 | 1526 | 1525 | 1524 | 1523 | 1522 | 1521 | 1520 | 1519 | 1518 | 1517 | 1516 | 1515 | 1514 | 1513 | 1512 | 1511 | 1510 | 1509 | 1508 | 1507 | 1506 | 1505 | 1504 | 1503 | 1502 | 1501 | 1500 | 1499 | 1498 | 1497 | 1496 | 1495 | 1494 | 1493 | 1492 | 1491 | 1490 | 1489 | 1488 | 1487 | 1486 | 1485 | 1484 | 1483 | 1482 | 1481 | 1480 | 1479 | 1478 | 1477 | 1476 | 1475 | 1474 | 1473 | 1472 | 1471 | 1470 | 1469 | 1468 | 1467 | 1466 | 1465 | 1464 | 1463 | 1462 | 1461 | 1460 | 1459 | 1458 | 1457 | 1456 | 1455 | 1454 | 1453 | 1452 | 1451 | 1450 | 1449 | 1448 | 1447 | 1446 | 1445 | 1444 | 1443 | 1442 | 1441 | 1440 | 1439 | 1438 | 1437 | 1436 | 1435 | 1434 | 1433 | 1432 | 1431 | 1430 | 1429 | 1428 | 1427 | 1426 | 1425 | 1424 | 1423 | 1422 | 1421 | 1420 | 1419 | 1418 | 1417 | 1416 | 1415 | 1414 | 1413 | 1412 | 1411 | 1410 | 1409 | 1408 | 1407 | 1406 | 1405 | 1404 | 1403 | 1402 | 1401 | 1400 | 1399 | 1398 | 1397 | 1396 | 1395 | 1394 | 1393 | 1392 | 1391 | 1390 | 1389 | 1388 | 1387 | 1386 | 1385 | 1384 | 1383 | 1382 | 1381 | 1380 | 1379 | 1378 | 1377 | 1376 | 1375 | 1374 | 1373 | 1372 | 1371 | 1370 | 1369 | 1368 | 1367 | 1366 | 1365 | 1364 | 1363 | 1362 | 1361 | 1360 | 1359 | 1358 | 1357 | 1356 | 1355 | 1354 | 1353 | 1352 | 1351 | 1350 | 1349 | 1348 | 1347 | 1346 | 1345 | 1344 | 1343 | 1342 | 1341 | 1340 | 1339 | 1338 | 1337 | 1336 | 1335 | 1334 | 1333 | 1332 | 1331 | 1330 | 1329 | 1328 | 1327 | 1326 | 1325 | 1324 | 1323 | 1322 | 1321 | 1320 | 1319 | 1318 | 1317 | 1316 | 1315 | 1314 | 1313 | 1312 | 1311 | 1310 | 1309 | 1308 | 1307 | 1306 | 1305 | 1304 | 1303 | 1302 | 1301 | 1300 | 1299 | 1298 | 1297 | 1296 | 1295 | 1294 | 1293 | 1292 | 1291 | 1290 | 1289 | 1288 | 1287 | 1286 | 1285 | 1284 | 1283 | 1282 | 1281 | 1280 | 1279 | 1278 | 1277 | 1276 | 1275 | 1274 | 1273 | 1272 | 1271 | 1270 | 1269 | 1268 | 1267 | 1266 | 1265 | 1264 | 1263 | 1262 | 1261 | 1260 | 1259 | 1258 | 1257 | 1256 | 1255 | 1254 | 1253 | 1252 | 1251 | 1250 | 1249 | 1248 | 1247 | 1246 | 1245 | 1244 | 1243 | 1242 | 1241 | 1240 | 1239 | 1238 | 1237 | 1236 | 1235 | 1234 | 1233 | 1232 | 1231 | 1230 | 1229 | 1228 | 1227 | 1226 | 1225 | 1224 | 1223 | 1222 | 1221 | 1220 | 1219 | 1218 | 1217 | 1216 | 1215 | 1214 | 1213 | 1212 | 1211 | 1210 | 1209 | 1208 | 1207 | 1206 | 1205 | 1204 | 1203 | 1202 | 1201 | 1200 | 1199 | 1198 | 1197 | 1196 | 1195 | 1194 | 1193 | 1192 | 1191 | 1190 | 1189 | 1188 | 1187 | 1186 | 1185 | 1184 | 1183 | 1182 | 1181 | 1180 | 1179 | 1178 | 1177 | 1176 | 1175 | 1174 | 1173 | 1172 | 1171 | 1170 | 1169 | 1168 | 1167 | 1166 | 1165 | 1164 | 1163 | 1162 | 1161 | 1160 | 1159 | 1158 | 1157 | 1156 | 1155 | 1154 | 1153 | 1152 | 1151 | 1150 | 1149 | 1148 | 1147 | 1146 | 1145 | 1144 | 1143 | 1142 | 1141 | 1140 | 1139 | 1138 | 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| 993 | 992 | 991 | 990 | 989 | 988 | 987 | 986 | 985 | 984 | 983 | 982 | 981 | 980 | 979 | 978 | 977 | 976 | 975 | 974 | 973 | 972 | 971 | 970 | 969 | 968 | 967 | 966 | 965 | 964 | 963 | 962 | 961 | 960 | 959 | 958 | 957 | 956 | 955 | 954 | 953 | 952 | 951 | 950 | 949 | 948 | 947 | 946 | 945 | 944 | 943 | 942 | 941 | 940 | 939 | 938 | 937 | 936 | 935 | 934 | 933 | 932 | 931 | 930 | 929 | 928 | 927 | 926 | 925 | 924 | 923 | 922 | 921 | 920 | 919 | 918 | 917 | 916 | 915 | 914 | 913 | 912 | 911 | 910 | 909 | 908 | 907 | 906 | 905 | 904 | 903 | 902 | 901 | 900 | 899 | 898 | 897 | 896 | 895 | 894 | 893 | 892 | 891 | 890 | 889 | 888 | 887 | 886 | 885 | 884 | 883 | 882 | 881 | 880 | 879 | 878 | 877 | 876 | 875 | 874 | 873 | 872 | 871 | 870 | 869 | 868 | 867 | 866 | 865 | 864 | 863 | 862 | 861 | 860 | 859 | 858 | 857 | 856 | 855 | 854 | 853 | 852 | 851 | 850 | 849 | 848 | 847 | 846 | 845 | 844 | 843 | 842 | 841 | 840 | 839 | 838 | 837 | 836 | 835 | 834 | 833 | 832 | 831 | 830 | 829 | 828 | 827 | 826 | 825 | 824 | 823 | 822 | 821 | 820 | 819 | 818 | 817 | 816 | 815 | 814 | 813 | 812 | 811 | 810 | 809 | 808 | 807 | 806 | 805 | 804 | 803 | 802 | 801 | 800 | 799 | 798 | 797 | 796 | 795 | 794 | 793 | 792 | 791 | 790 | 789 | 788 | 787 | 786 | 785 | 784 | 783 | 782 | 781 | 780 | 779 | 778 | 777 | 776 | 775 | 774 | 773 | 772 | 771 | 770 | 769 | 768 | 767 | 766 | 765 | 764 | 763 | 762 | 761 | 760 | 759 | 758 | 757 | 756 | 755 | 754 | 753 | 752 | 751 | 750 | 749 | 748 | 747 | 746 | 745 | 744 | 743 | 742 | 741 | 740 | 739 | 738 | 737 | 736 | 735 | 734 | 733 | 732 | 731 | 730 | 729 | 728 | 727 | 726 | 725 | 724 | 723 | 722 | 721 | 720 | 719 | 718 | 717 | 716 | 715 | 714 | 713 | 712 | 711 | 710 | 709 | 708 | 707 | 706 | 705 | 704 | 703 | 702 | 701 | 700 | 699 | 698 | 697 | 696 | 695 | 694 | 693 | 692 | 691 | 690 | 689 | 688 | 687 | 686 | 685 | 684 | 683 | 682 | 681 | 680 | 679 | 678 | 677 | 676 | 675 | 674 | 673 | 672 | 671 | 670 | 669 | 668 | 667 | 666 | 665 | 664 | 663 | 662 | 661 | 660 | 659 | 658 | 657 | 656 | 655 | 654 | 653 | 652 | 651 | 650 | 649 | 648 | 647 | 646 | 645 | 644 | 643 | 642 | 641 | 640 | 639 | 638 | 637 | 636 | 635 | 634 | 633 | 632 | 631 | 630 | 629 | 628 | 627 | 626 | 625 | 624 | 623 | 622 | 621 | 620 | 619 | 618 | 617 | 616 | 615 | 614 | 613 | 612 | 611 | 610 | 609 | 608 | 607 | 606 | 605 | 604 | 603 | 602 | 601 | 600 | 599 | 598 | 597 | 596 | 595 | 594 | 593 |
|-------|-------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------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MINES - Cont.[illegible][illegible][illegible]

FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

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AUTHORISED
UNIT TRUSTS

| | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| <p>ABN AMRO Unit Trusts Ltd (02000)</p> <p>ABN AMRO Unit Trusts Ltd (02000) is a unit trust managed by ABN AMRO Bank N.V. The fund invests in a diversified portfolio of equities and fixed income securities. The fund's objective is to provide long-term capital growth and income. The fund is open for subscription and redemption.</p> <p>ABN AMRO Unit Trusts Ltd (02000) is a unit trust managed by ABN AMRO Bank N.V. The fund invests in a diversified portfolio of equities and fixed income securities. The fund's objective is to provide long-term capital growth and income. The fund is open for subscription and redemption.</p> | <p>ABN AMRO Unit Trusts Ltd (02000)</p> <p>ABN AMRO Unit Trusts Ltd (02000) is a unit trust managed by ABN AMRO Bank N.V. The fund invests in a diversified portfolio of equities and fixed income securities. The fund's objective is to provide long-term capital growth and income. 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Guide to pricing of Authorised Unit Trusts
Compiled with the assistance of Laura St

INITIAL CHARGE: Charge made on sale of units. Most unit trusts have an initial charge of 5% of the net asset value of the units. Some unit trusts have a lower initial charge, and some have no initial charge at all.

OFFER PRICE: The price at which units are offered to the public. This is usually the net asset value of the units, plus the initial charge, divided by the number of units offered.

NET ASSET VALUE: The value of the assets of the unit trust, minus the liabilities, divided by the number of units outstanding.

REDEMPTION PRICE: The price at which units are redeemed. This is usually the net asset value of the units, minus the initial charge, divided by the number of units redeemed.

TERMINAL CHARGE: Charge made on redemption of units. Most unit trusts have a terminal charge of 5% of the net asset value of the units. Some unit trusts have a lower terminal charge, and some have no terminal charge at all.

SALES CHARGE: Charge made on sale of units. This is usually a percentage of the net asset value of the units, plus the initial charge, divided by the number of units sold.

REDEMPTION CHARGE: Charge made on redemption of units. This is usually a percentage of the net asset value of the units, minus the initial charge, divided by the number of units redeemed.

SALES AND REDEMPTION CHARGES: Charges made on sale and redemption of units. These are usually a percentage of the net asset value of the units, plus the initial charge, divided by the number of units sold and redeemed.

SALES AND REDEMPTION CHARGES: Charges made on sale and redemption of units. These are usually a percentage of the net asset value of the units, plus the initial charge, divided by the number of units sold and redeemed.

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FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

| Company | Code | Price | Yield |
|---------------------------|------|--------|-------|
| Bank of Montreal | 0001 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Imperial Bank of Canada | 0002 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Commerce | 0003 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Nova Scotia | 0004 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of New Brunswick | 0005 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of New South Wales | 0006 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of New Zealand | 0007 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Queensland | 0008 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of South Australia | 0009 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Western Australia | 0010 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Victoria | 0011 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Tasmania | 0012 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of New Guinea | 0013 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Papua New Guinea | 0014 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Solomon Islands | 0015 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Vanuatu | 0016 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Fiji | 0017 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Tonga | 0018 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Samoa | 0019 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Kiribati | 0020 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Tuvalu | 0021 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Nauru | 0022 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Marshall Islands | 0023 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Micronesia | 0024 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Palau | 0025 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of East Timor | 0026 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Timor-Leste | 0027 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Cambodia | 0028 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Laos | 0029 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Vietnam | 0030 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0031 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0032 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0033 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0034 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0035 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0036 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0037 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0038 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0039 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0040 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0041 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0042 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0043 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0044 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0045 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0046 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0047 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0048 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0049 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0050 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0051 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0052 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0053 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0054 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0055 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0056 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0057 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0058 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0059 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0060 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0061 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0062 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0063 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0064 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0065 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0066 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0067 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0068 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0069 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0070 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0071 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0072 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0073 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0074 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0075 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0076 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0077 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0078 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0079 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0080 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0081 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0082 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0083 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0084 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0085 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0086 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Singapore | 0087 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Brunei | 0088 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Indonesia | 0089 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Philippines | 0090 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Thailand | 0091 | 100.00 | 5.00 |
| Bank of Malaysia | 0092 | 100.00 | 5.00 |

● Current Unit Trust prices are available on FT Cityline and 48p/minute at all other times. To obtain a free Unit

MANAGED FUNDS NOTES

Prices are to issue sales of \$100,000 and those designated S with no prefix refer to U.S. dollars. Yields "H" allow for all before expenses. Prices of certain older insurance policies are based on the 1975-76 rate schedule. Distribution fees of UK Tax and Pacific Premium Insurance plans. S Simple premium insurance. A Designated Investment Plan (DIP) is a plan established in Luxembourg as a UCITS (Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities) and which provides for the investment of assets in a diversified portfolio of securities. A Foreign trust's price is shown in parentheses. S Guaranteed Income Plan is a plan established in Luxembourg as a UCITS (Undertaking for Collective Investment in Transferable Securities) and which provides for the investment of assets in a diversified portfolio of securities. S Yield curve shows annualized rates of 10% increase, all on dividend.

Funds not SIB are subject to regulatory authorities for the U.S. are: Guaranty Financial Services Corporation, Ireland; Central Bank of Ireland; Isle of Man; Financial Supervision Commission; Jersey.

JUNE 23 1970
T FUND

[illegible][illegible]

| NEW YORK ACTIVE STOCKS | | | | TRADING ACTIVITY | | | | NORWAY | | | | NORWEGIAN FUND | | | |
|------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|------------------|-----------|---------|---------|------------------------|---------|------------|---------|----------------|---------|---------|--|
| Monday | Stocks | Closing | Change on | Volume | | MRB | MRB | OSLO (LSE) | | OSLO (LSE) | | OSLO (LSE) | | | |
| | traded | price | day | Jun 22 | Jun 19 | Jun 22 | Jun 19 | Jun 22 | Jun 19 | Jun 22 | Jun 19 | Jun 22 | Jun 19 | | |
| Telcelmex | 3,941,000 | 44 | - | New York SE | 1,645,300 | 233,440 | 215,000 | PSI/PSI | 1519.54 | 1499.98 | 1570.85 | 1570.85 | 1190.95 | 1190.95 | |
| Cyberstar | 3,545,000 | 51 | + 2 1/2 | Amex | 1,258 | 11,100 | 10,529 | SANPACOR | 403.07 | 403.48 | 407.00 | 410.44 | 410.44 | 370.35 | |
| Chrysler | 1,970,300 | 23 | - | NASDAQ | 11 | 27,346 | 187,883 | OSI OS-Gruppen (OS/OS) | 403.07 | 403.48 | 407.00 | 410.44 | 410.44 | 370.35 | |
| IBM | 1,059,100 | 104 | + 1/2 | NYSE | 2,272 | 2,270 | 2,258 | OSI OS-Gruppen (OS/OS) | 403.07 | 403.48 | 407.00 | 410.44 | 410.44 | 370.35 | |
| Johnson | 1,002,300 | 20 | - | NYSE | 2,272 | 2,270 | 2,258 | OSI OS-Gruppen (OS/OS) | 403.07 | 403.48 | 407.00 | 410.44 | 410.44 | 370.35 | |
| Chrysler | 1,732,400 | 20 | - | NYSE | 2,272 | 2,270 | 2,258 | OSI OS-Gruppen (OS/OS) | 403.07 | 403.48 | 407.00 | 410.44 | 410.44 | 370.35 | |
| Alcatel | 1,564,100 | 79 | + 1 1/2 | NYSE | 2,272 | 2,270 | 2,258 | OSI OS-Gruppen (OS/OS) | 403.07 | 403.48 | 407.00 | 410.44 | 410.44 | 370.35 | |
| Gen Motors | 1,335,400 | 24 | - | NYSE | 2,272 | 2,270 | 2,258 | OSI OS-Gruppen (OS/OS) | 403.07 | 403.48 | 407.00 | 410.44 | 410.44 | 370.35 | |
| Air Motors | 1,507,800 | 79 | + 1 1/2 | NYSE | 2,272 | 2,270 | 2,258 | OSI OS-Gruppen (OS/OS) | 403.07 | 403.48 | 407.00 | 410.44 | 410.44 | 370.35 | |
| Com Data | 1,458,400 | 40 | - | NYSE | 2,272 | 2,270 | 2,258 | OSI OS-Gruppen (OS/OS) | 403.07 | 403.48 | 407.00 | 410.44 | 410.44 | 370.35 | |

[illegible]

| | Stocks Traded | Closing Prices | Change on day | | Stocks Traded | Closing Prices | Change on day |
|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Mitsui Bk Finl | 7.3 | 987 | +8 | Toshiba Corp | 2.9 | 800 | -1 |
| Sanyo-Kohatsu | 4.4 | 241 | -38 | Mitsubishi Hvy | 1.8 | 540 | -3 |
| Morihaga Mfr | 2.1 | 259 | -33 | Mitsubishi | 1.6 | 266 | -10 |
| NIPP Foods | 1.3 | 671 | -55 | NIPP Steel Corp | 1.8 | 522 | +2 |
| Mitsui Eng | 2.1 | 281 | +12 | Sumitomo Metal | 1.5 | 242 | -10 |

NORWAY

The FT proposes to publish this survey on
June 26th 1992.

The survey will be included with every copy of the FT on that day and will reach over 1 million readers in some 160 countries world wide. In Europe alone, research shows that 54% of Chief Executives of the largest Companies read the Financial Times.*

To reach this important audience with your advertisement, please contact,
Chris Schaanning in Birmingham
Tel: 021 454 0922
Fax: 021 455 0869
or **Kirsty Saunders in London**
Tel: 071 873 4823
Fax: 071 873 3079

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 Fax: 071 873 3079

Data source: Chief Executives in Europe 1990

ET SURVEYS

4:00 pm prices June 22

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE COMPOSITE PRICES

| Stock | Price | Change | Volume | High | Low | Open | Close | Settle |
|---|---------------|--------|---------------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| NYSE Composite | 2,814.14 | +10.14 | 1,123,456,789 | 2,814.14 | 2,804.00 | 2,804.00 | 2,814.14 | 2,814.14 |
| Dow Jones Industrial | 2,814.14 | +10.14 | 1,123,456,789 | 2,814.14 | 2,804.00 | 2,804.00 | 2,814.14 | 2,814.14 |
| S&P 500 | 2,814.14 | +10.14 | 1,123,456,789 | 2,814.14 | 2,804.00 | 2,804.00 | 2,814.14 | 2,814.14 |
| NASDAQ Composite | 2,814.14 | +10.14 | 1,123,456,789 | 2,814.14 | 2,804.00 | 2,804.00 | 2,814.14 | 2,814.14 |
| NYSE Volume | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Volume | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Volume | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Volume | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Turnover | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Turnover | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Turnover | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Turnover | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Bid-Ask Spread | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Bid-Ask Spread | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Bid-Ask Spread | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Bid-Ask Spread | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Volatility | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Volatility | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Volatility | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Volatility | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Correlation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Correlation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Correlation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Correlation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Beta | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Beta | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Beta | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Beta | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Alpha | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Alpha | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Alpha | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Alpha | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE R-squared | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones R-squared | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 R-squared | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ R-squared | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Residual | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Residual | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Residual | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Residual | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Standard Error | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Standard Error | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Standard Error | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Standard Error | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Adjusted R-squared | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Adjusted R-squared | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Adjusted R-squared | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Adjusted R-squared | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE F-statistic | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones F-statistic | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 F-statistic | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ F-statistic | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Durbin-Watson | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Durbin-Watson | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Durbin-Watson | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Durbin-Watson | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE VIF | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones VIF | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 VIF | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ VIF | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Tolerance | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Tolerance | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Tolerance | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Tolerance | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Variance Inflation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Variance Inflation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Variance Inflation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Variance Inflation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Constant | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Constant | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Constant | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Constant | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Intercept | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Intercept | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Intercept | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Intercept | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Slope | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Slope | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Slope | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Slope | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Variance | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Variance | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Variance | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Variance | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Standard Deviation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Standard Deviation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Standard Deviation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Standard Deviation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Coefficient of Variation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Coefficient of Variation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Coefficient of Variation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Coefficient of Variation | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Skewness | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Skewness | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Skewness | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Skewness | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Kurtosis | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Kurtosis | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Kurtosis | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Kurtosis | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Jarque-Bera | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Jarque-Bera | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Jarque-Bera | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Jarque-Bera | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Shapiro-Wilk | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Shapiro-Wilk | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Shapiro-Wilk | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Shapiro-Wilk | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Anderson-Darling | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Anderson-Darling | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Anderson-Darling | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Anderson-Darling | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Portmanteau | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| S&P 500 Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NASDAQ Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| NYSE Error BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-BDS-Ljung-Box | 1,123,456,789 | | | | | | | |
| Dow Jones | | | | | | | | |

NASDAQ NATIONAL MARKET[illegible]

4:00 pm prices June 22

[illegible]

The FT proposes to publish this survey on

This survey will be seen by leading international businessmen in 160 countries worldwide, including Switzerland where it will be widely distributed.

In Europe 92% of the professional investment community regularly read the FT.

If you would like to promote your company's involvement in this region to this important audience, please contact

Nigel Bicknell or Simone Egli in Geneva
on 731 16 04 Fax 731 94 81
or Patricia Surridge in London
on 071 873 3426.

Data source: The Professional Investment Community Worldwide 1991 (MPG Int'l)

ET SURVEYS

4:00 am prices June 22

[illegible]

PRIVATISATION IN EASTERN EUROPE

The FT proposes to publish this survey on
July 3 1992.

The first ever FT survey on this subject will be published in the FT of that day and will be printed in London, Frankfurt, Roubaix, New Jersey and Tokyo. It will be distributed in 160 countries world-wide.

For further information
about advertising in this survey
please contact:
Patricia Surridge in London
Tel: (071) 873 3426
Fax: (071) 873 3428
Gerd Rozler in Vienna
Tel: (1) 505 31 84
Fax: (1) 505 31 76
Nina Kowalewska in Warsaw

NEW
Tel: (22) 48 97 87
Fax: (22) 48 97 87
Nina Golovyatenko in
Moscow
Tel (095) 243 19 57
Fax (095) 251 24 57

FT SURVEYS

AMERICA

Sluggishness of US recovery spreads gloom

Wall Street

ALTHOUGH US share prices recovered from heavy early losses yesterday, market sentiment remained depressed amid deepening gloom about the sluggishness of the US economic recovery and its effect on corporate earnings, writes Patrick Harverson in New York.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average was finally off 4.55 at 3,280.80, a substantial rally from early afternoon when it had been 30 points down.

The Standard & Poor's 500 lost a net 0.26 at 403.41, the American SE composite shed 3.77 to 376.52 and the Nasdaq composite gave up 4.47 at 549.73. Turnover on the New York SE was 189m shares.

The market has fallen in four out of the last five trading days (the only exception being Friday when options-related buying lifted the Dow 11 points), and analysts have interpreted the declines as part of a concerted sell-off by investors - a substantial correction of the recent bull phase.

Some say that an increasing number of investors now believe equities are overvalued and, troubled by the feebleness of the economic recovery, find more reasons to sell stocks than to buy them.

Merck bucked the trend, rising 32% to \$50 in heavy trading on news that the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) had approved the company's Proscar drug, used in the treatment of enlarged prostate glands.

Another rare gain was recorded by Time Warner,

which rose 5% to \$110% as investors celebrated news that the new *Batman Returns* film, produced by subsidiary Warner Brothers, earned more than \$46m in gross receipts over its opening weekend.

Boeing eased 5% to \$41 on reports that the aircraft manufacturer is fighting European consortium Airbus Industries for a \$2.4bn contract for jetliners from United Airlines.

International Rectifier dropped 32% to \$8% after the company warned that previous earnings projections were too optimistic and said its fiscal fourth-quarter net would be only slightly in the black.

The losses on Latin American, and especially Mexican, markets took their toll of certain stocks, notably Telcel, down 32% at \$44, Mexico Fund, 31% lower at \$20%, and Brazil Fund, off 31% at \$17%.

On the Nasdaq market, Heart Technology fell a further 32% to \$9% after voluntarily recalling its coronary stent device following five reported failures. On Friday the stock fell sharply when the company asked customers to stop using the product.

Canada

TORONTO rallied from early weakness in line with Wall Street, the TSE 300 index ending a net 10.2 off at 3,340.7 after a near 30-point initial fall. Declines led rises by 342 to 219 and volume was 23m shares.

The gold group recovered from Friday's decline, rising 1.37 per cent. The New York spot gold price was up US\$2.75 to US\$443.25 an ounce.

SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG fell following the ANC's decision to withdraw from negotiations on power-sharing with the government. But the weakness of the financial rand, which lost 7.5 per cent earlier in the session before recovering slightly, helped lift these companies with offshore assets. The overall index lost 4.3 to 3,639 and industrials were down 51 at 4,471. The gold index shed 17 to 1,141. Minero gained 25 cents to \$47.25 and Lonrho added 15 cents to \$5.55. De Beers shed \$1 to \$27.50.

EUROPE

AFTER firming on Friday following the Irish 'yes' vote on the Maastricht treaty, markets weakened yesterday after Tokyo's steep overnight decline, writes Our Markets Staff.

The Irish referendum result had given traders a brief moment of comfort following the Danish 'no' earlier in the month which seemed to have effectively derailed hopes for closer economic union.

There was general agreement among analysts yesterday that whatever muted euphoria had been generated by the Irish referendum result had been dissipated by the start of trading.

Mr Subhi Wedhwan of Goldman Sachs said he did not expect European bourses to move decisively higher until the French referendum on Maastricht had been held. He also pointed out that there was uncertainty over Germany's attitude towards Maastricht, with the possibility that the German government might seek to make amendments.

PARIS erased most of Friday's gains as a domestic newspaper poll showed that only 29

| FT-SE Eurotrack 100 - Jun 22 | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|-------------------|---------|---------|---------|--|--|
| Hourly changes | | | | | | | | | |
| Open | 10.30am | 11 am | 12 pm | 1 pm | 2 pm | 3 pm | close | | |
| 1150.95 | 1151.31 | 1151.05 | 1150.88 | 1150.85 | 1150.92 | 1150.79 | 1149.77 | | |
| Day's High 1151.48 | | | | Day's Low 1149.50 | | | | | |
| Jun 19 | Jun 18 | Jun 17 | Jun 16 | Jun 15 | | | | | |
| 1154.66 | 1145.88 | 1158.46 | 1165.38 | 1159.75 | | | | | |

Base value 1000 (25/10/80).

per cent of investors were bullish about the stock market. Weakness in the Maastricht, as arbitrators covered their positions following the government's FF140m bond swap plan announced on Friday, also weighed on share prices.

The CAC 40 index dropped 28.15 or 1.5 per cent to 1,855.77 in turnover of FF2.4bn, of which around FF421m was generated by a block trade in BSN and FF297.5m in Lyonnais des Eaux.

Dealers said that the block trades were likely to have been executed by an insurance company in order to realise a profit in one fund, and transfer the stock to another fund. Lyonnais fell FF6 to FF132 and BSN lost FF12 to FF100.

Michelin dropped FF7.50 to FF191.50 on rumours, dealer

by the company, that it was about to have a FF12bn rights issue.

FRANKFURT saw the DAX index close just 2.25 lower at 1,770.94 after a 1.36 decline to 1,772.12 in the FAZ at mid-session, and share prices moved little in the post-hour. Turnover fell from DM13.9m, inflated by the expiry of derivatives contracts, to just DM4.4bn.

Volkswagen's drive for volume in the European mass car market, reflected in a 1.75 per cent market share in the first five months of 1992, was marked by a small rise in the shares which closed just DM6.90 higher at DM406.70.

Mr Reinhard Fischer, head of European research at Paribas Capital Markets, observed that VW shares had already pro-

duced a 20 per cent gain relative to the DAX index since the start of 1992. He added that VW's marketing costs were shooting up, and that Paribas saw earnings on a declining trend over the next two years.

MILAN rose on dealers' hopes that a government would be formed this week. However, a further rise in interest rates, reflecting higher bond yields and the lira's weakness, acted as a brake on the market. The Comit index rose 4.69 to 474.57 in turnover estimated at between L80bn-L90bn after L79.5bn.

Fiat rose 1.37 or 2.6 per cent to L5.45 as professionals and institutions bought the stock in anticipation of a stock market rally when the new government is announced. On the screen market, the state telephone company Sip remained the most heavily dealt stock, gaining L4 to L1.304 in volume of 3.4m shares.

ZURICH heard that hopes of an economic recovery in the first quarter of 1992 had not been fulfilled, and the SMI index lost 22.4, or 1.2 per cent to 1,849.9.

Roche recovered some early

losses after the group said that its Hivid AIDS drug had received FDA approval for use in combination with Wellcome's Retrovir. The certificate, which headed the active list, ended SFR40 easier at SFR3.330 after SFR3.310.

AMSTERDAM declined in sluggish trade, the CBS Tendency index losing 0.30 to 125.20 in turnover of some F140m.

Volmac fell F13.40 or 12.6 per cent to F123.50 with just 18,000 shares traded: the software group reported disappointing profit figures after the close on Friday. KLM's weakness continued, down F1.10 to F137.20, on nervousness that the transatlantic price war may affect earnings. Profit-taking in Heineken saw the shares off F1.20 at F116.90.

MADRID fell in line with other markets, the general index losing 3.08 to 246.41. Trading in Euronext, the chemicals group, was suspended at 14:17 after the chairman announced his resignation. Its shares have lost 33 per cent over the last month.

STOCKHOLM eased but a large block trade in the pharmaceutical company, Astra,

accounted for more than half of turnover which climbed from SKR430m to SKR837m. Astra shares became free of foreign ownership restrictions yesterday, the A ended SKR1 lower at SKR545 on in SKR547m as the Affarsvärlden General index fell 4.2 to 247.

In COPENHAGEN, the central bank's weekend promise to meet Unibank's liquidity requirements, following rumours about the bank's financial soundness, stabilised the share price which closed up DKR2 at DKR153. The All-Share Index slipped by 1.58 to 316.93, writes Hilary Barnes.

Danisco fell by DKR25 to DKR733 following a report that the company is being investigated by the EC in connection with allegations of a price cartel in the European sugar market for 1991-92 are due today.

TEL AVIV hit a new record, anticipating decisive results from today's Israeli general elections and contradicting opinion polls which have projected a deadlock. The blue chip share index rose 2.48 to 137.28 in turnover of 92.2m shekels.

ASIA PACIFIC

Nikkei average falls 3.6 per cent to 68-month low

Tokyo

A LOWER futures market prompted arbitrage-related selling, depressing the Nikkei average by 3.6 per cent to its weakest level for 68 months, writes Emilio Terzozzo in Tokyo.

The 225-index average fell 58.85 to end at 15,921.23, its lowest close since October 23, 1986. The index rose to the day's high of 16,648.94 after the opening on short-covering, but later dropped on a steady flow of arbitrage-related selling, reaching the day's low of 15,886.79 in the afternoon. Volume decreased to 23m shares from Friday's 23m.

Worries about economic prospects kept investors from committing funds and, while small-lot buying by public pension funds was noted, trad-

ers said the amounts were not large enough to counter the arbitrage selling pressure.

Declines overwhelmed advances by 732 to 204, with 151 issues unchanged. The Topix index of all first section stocks shed 27.09 to 1,240.18, but in London the MIB/Nikkei 50 index edged up 0.89 to 989.99.

Sentiment deteriorated as the market fell through the 18,000 psychological support level. Mr Kazuo Matsui at Barclays de Zoete Wedd said that while there was no panic selling, share prices were spiralling down because of lack of buying interest.

Mr Jason James at James Capel said institutional investors, looking for weaker market levels in the near future, were hedging their long positions by selling in the futures markets. "The market has bro-

ken out of its bottom, and some chartists are saying it is 'open country' from here," he added.

Nippon Life, the leading life insurer, said its fund managers were buying in small lots. However, prospects of an orchestrated move among life insurers were unlikely, since most of unrealised gains had been already wiped out at some of the leading insurance groups.

Mr Fumio Hiramoto, manager of Nomura Securities' stock market division, said the bottom should be around 15,500-15,600, due to a number of technical resistance lines.

Dealers unloaded short-term speculative holdings. Melji Milk Products, the most active issue of the day, fell Y39 to Y81 and Morinaga Milk Industry plunged Y33 to Y868. Dai-ichi, the condominium

maker, lost Y75 to an all-time low of Y870. The stock is now 84 per cent off its peak registered in the early 1980s. Other real estate-related companies also retreated, Mitsui Fudosan slipping Y10 to Y527 and Mitsubishi Estate Y45 to Y741.

High-technology issues declined on institutional selling. Hitachi weakened Y23 to Y780, Fujitsu Y28 to Y802 and Sony Y150 to Y4,010.

In Osaka, the OSE average ended 276.89 to 19,000.52 in volume of 13.5m shares.

Roundup

THE Japanese market woes had a limited effect on equities elsewhere in the Pacific Basin. TAIWAN saw its heaviest trade since February, turnover doubling from T\$24.7bn to T\$49.2bn as speculative buying pushed the weighted index up

79.64, or 1.7 per cent, to 4,897.65.

China Development, a recent speculative favourite, led the heavily weighted financial sector to a gain of 3.6 per cent as it rose T\$7.50 to T\$121.50. Food companies were strong because of the appreciation in the Taiwan dollar, making their raw material imports cheaper.

MANILA was lifted by Friday's 51% rise to 306% in Philippine Long Distance Telephone, the composite index adding 25.63 points to 1,519.54.

SEOUL reached a low for the year as the composite index lost 6.97 to 558.32. Falls in banks and securities houses spread to other sectors, and sentiment was also affected by worries about an oversupply of shares after a statement by South Korean finance vice-minister Lee Soo-yoo that he would consider allowing the state-run

Industrial Bank of Korea to make an initial public offering.

HONG KONG climbed, although afternoon profit-taking trimmed early gains. The Hang Seng index closed 32.34 higher at 5,819.94 in turnover down from HK\$3.04bn to HK\$2.78bn. Initial gains on the strength of last Friday's Tokyo and Wall Street performances were more than enough to offset the weakness in Japan yesterday.

AUSTRALIA edged higher in quiet trade, the All Ordinaries index firming 2.4 to 1,836.3, with investors preoccupied by Tokyo's decline and the initial public offering of shares in GIO Australia.

The offer will raise up to A\$1.2bn, and will employ a constrained open-pricing mechanism with an application price of A\$2.40, and a final sale price determined by demand.

Tokyo's problems weigh on bourses

MARKETS IN PERSPECTIVE

| | % change in local currency | | | % change sterling | % change US \$ |
|-------------|----------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------|----------------|
| | 1 Week | 4 Weeks | 1 Year | | |
| Austria | -2.00 | -0.65 | -18.48 | +7.08 | +3.11 |
| Belgium | -1.33 | -2.59 | -1.19 | -1.78 | -1.78 |
| Denmark | -2.88 | -5.91 | -15.26 | -10.78 | -12.70 |
| Finland | -0.97 | -0.07 | -25.89 | +0.95 | -2.64 |
| France | -0.95 | -0.94 | +8.22 | +8.97 | +7.47 |
| Germany | -0.31 | -2.06 | -0.07 | +10.17 | +7.11 |
| Ireland | +0.61 | -3.48 | -3.98 | -2.59 | -4.47 |
| Italy | -0.68 | -3.46 | -20.13 | -4.94 | -7.25 |
| Netherlands | -2.75 | -1.37 | +4.57 | +9.95 | +5.84 |
| Norway | -4.78 | -7.79 | -18.45 | +1.49 | -0.87 |
| Spain | +0.47 | -4.11 | -8.29 | +1.65 | +0.21 |
| Sweden | -1.72 | -6.38 | -11.43 | +8.14 | +6.46 |
| Switzerland | -0.68 | -2.00 | +0.74 | +12.98 | +7.82 |
| UK | -0.82 | -6.23 | +4.25 | +4.65 | +4.65 |
| EUROPE | -0.98 | -4.34 | +1.17 | +5.77 | +4.32 |

| | % change in local currency | | | % change sterling | % change US \$ |
|--------------|----------------------------|---------|--------|-------------------|----------------|
| | 1 Week | 4 Weeks | 1 Year | | |
| Australia | -1.23 | -3.05 | +6.23 | -1.72 | -1.93 |
| Hong Kong | -0.25 | +0.00 | +81.42 | +37.79 | +38.58 |
| Japan | -4.75 | -7.84 | -31.39 | -28.95 | -28.10 |
| Malaysia | +0.45 | +1.09 | +8.32 | +3.50 | +11.58 |
| New Zealand | -0.18 | -1.94 | +1.53 | -1.49 | -0.70 |
| Singapore | -1.98 | +3.02 | +2.87 | +1.90 | +2.37 |
| Canada | -2.61 | -1.84 | -7.53 | -5.48 | -6.73 |
| USA | -1.43 | -2.59 | +8.37 | -3.16 | -3.16 |
| Mexico | -0.18 | -10.42 | +48.21 | +6.70 | +4.58 |
| South Africa | -0.84 | -0.15 | +11.02 | +7.23 | -4.90 |
| WORLD INDEX | -2.14 | -4.30 | -6.16 | -7.57 | -8.12 |

1 Based on June 1992 1992. Copyright: The Financial Times Limited, Goldman, Sachs & Co., and County NatWest/World Mackenzie in conjunction with the Institute of Actuaries and the Faculty of Actuaries

FT-ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

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| NATIONAL AND REGIONAL MARKETS | MONDAY JUNE 22 1992 | | | | | FRIDAY JUNE 19 1992 | | | | | DOLLAR INDEX | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|-----------|----------------------|--------------|----------|-------------------|---------|---------|
| | US Dollar Index | Day's Change % | Pound Sterling Index | Yen Index | Local Currency Index | US Dollar Index | Day's Change % | Pound Sterling Index | Yen Index | Local Currency Index | 1992 High | 1992 Low | Year ago (approx) | | |
| Australia (59) | 146.57 | -0.3 | 116.74 | 117.71 | 119.34 | 130.00 | +0.2 | 4.20 | 147.02 | 117.22 | 117.98 | 120.01 | 129.78 | 153.68 | 140.94 |
| Austria (139) | 170.30 | -0.8 | 135.63 | 136.77 | 138.65 | 138.70 | -1.3 | 2.11 | 171.71 | 135.91 | 137.90 | 140.18 | 140.46 | 185.70 | 162.48 |
| Belgium (48) | 141.32 | -0.1 | 112.56 | 113.49 | 115.08 | 114.54 | -0.3 | 5.43 | 141.76 | 113.52 | 113.74 | 115.70 | 113.59 | 145.19 | 135.87 |
| Canada (115) | 124.32 | -0.1 | 95.01 | 95.83 | 101.21 | 107.57 | -0.3 | 3.41 | 124.40 | 95.19 | 95.82 | 101.54 | 107.92 | 142.12 | 124.32 |
| Denmark (33) | 231.99 | -0.5 | 184.77 | 186.32 | 188.88 | 190.11 | -0.7 | 1.87 | 233.21 | 185.94 | 187.15 | 190.36 | 191.50 | 273.94 | 225.81 |
| Finland (119) | 74.89 | -1.4 | 59.94 | 60.14 | 60.97 | 67.38 | -1.8 | 2.10 | 75.98 | 60.59 | 60.98 | 62.00 | 65.25 | 89.80 | 73.64 |
| France (104) | 158.03 | -1.0 | 126.96 | 127.71 | 129.45 | 131.83 | -1.3 | 3.58 | 158.08 | 126.11 | 126.93 | 131.14 | 133.82 | 162.12 | 149.08 |
| Germany (65) | 124.87 | +0.0 | 95.45 | 100.29 | 101.86 | 101.66 | -0.3 | 2.28 | 124.89 | 95.56 | 100.24 | 101.94 | 101.84 | 125.57 | 114.87 |
| Hong Kong (58) | 246.79 | +0.6 | 195.76 | 197.39 | 200.12 | 244.12 | +0.6 | 3.38 | 244.14 | 194.87 | 195.13 | 199.50 | 242.71 | 254.67 | 178.36 |
| Ireland (18) | 158.45 | -0.5 | 126.20 | 127.25 | 129.09 | 130.75 | -0.8 | 4.19 | 158.91 | 127.02 | 127.94 | 130.03 | 131.81 | 173.71 | 157.78 |
| Italy (78) | 70.55 | +1.5 | 58.20 | 58.67 | 57.45 | 62.98 | +1.1 | 3.36 | 69.20 | 55.41 | 55.77 | 58.73 | 61.57 | 80.86 | 68.39 |
| Japan (473) | 85.29 | -2.4 | 75.98 | 76.52 | 77.59 | 78.52 | -2.4 | 1.11 | 85.96 | 77.87 | 78.37 | 79.73 | 78.37 | 140.95 | 86.70 |
| Malaysia (69) | 238.51 | -0.5 | 189.96 | 191.54 | 194.18 | 231.02 | -0.5 | 2.71 | 239.73 | 191.14 | 192.37 | 195.87 | 232.30 | 250.18 | 212.49 |
| Netherlands (28) | 1478.50 | +2.3 | 1177.67 | 1187.71 | 1204.08 | 1204.84 | +2.1 | 1.14 | 1448.03 | 1152.83 | 1160.40 | 1180.31 | 1489.14 | 1789.77 | 1376.91 |
| Norway (119) | 195.80 | -0.4 | 127.35 | 128.42 | 130.19 | 128.74 | -0.7 | 4.35 | 195.80 | 128.05 | 128.88 | 131.09 | 129.83 | 165.92 | 144.85 |
| New Zealand (25) | 46.54 | -0.2 | 37.07 | 37.38 | 37.98 | 45.25 | -0.4 | 5.00 | 46.55 | 37.19 | 37.38 | 38.08 | 45.52 | 45.01 | |